

THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 10

May 3, 1995

Employee steals \$15,000 from FSC

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-Chief

Charges have been filed against former Graduate and Continuing Education Office employee Linda Stone who admitted the theft of just over \$15,000 from the college.

According to Mike Shanley from the college's Public Relations office, Stone was one of the few employees who handled cash transactions in her position as a bookkeeper at the college. She was responsible for turning that cash over to the treasurer's office.

College officials would not comment on her reason for taking the money.

Stone admitted the theft to a college administrator on May 20, 1994, after realizing that an audit requested by the Fitchburg State College Board of Trustees would detect the loss. The State

Auditor's office was immediately notified along with the Attorney General and District Attorney. The case was inactive until recently.

Stone, held positions as a bookkeeper at the college in the late seventies and early eighties. She took some time off and then returned to work in 1989 in the Graduate and Continuing Education Office.

Shanley said that the college has never detected any theft of this nature before, and insurance coverage for the loss was never a pressing issue because Stone repaid the college the whole amount stolen.

Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education Michele Zide assured that the theft had nothing to do with this year's increase in the tuition for summer and winter intercession classes. She attributes the fee hike to salary raises for the faculty.

Financial aid cuts protested

Press release

U.S. Rep. John W. Olver (D-First District) came to Fitchburg State College to inform students of proposed cuts in the student loans and grants that help them stay in school.

Olver joined students, financial aid counselors, faculty and school administrators at a student rally on April 12 on the FSC campus.

"These days, the hard truth is that what you earn depends on what you learn," said Olver. "Nearly 2,000 students right here at Fitchburg State rely on aid to finance their future. It just doesn't make sense that in Newt Gingrich's America, Republicans would cut the aid that makes the difference between going to college and going nowhere."

To finance tax breaks for wealthy Americans and corporations, the Republican Congress has already proposed slashing billions by eliminating or restructuring four year college aid programs.

Currently, students are able to defer payments on Stafford loans for six months after graduation. Under the new proposal, interest would accrue immediately. For the 1,087 students who received Stafford Loans last year, the plan would add \$3,889 to the cost of going to Fitchburg State for four years. The monthly payment for student loans at Fitchburg will increase from \$119.52 to \$148.98, an in-

crease of \$29.46 per month for ten years.

Republicans would also eliminate the federal work-study program. Without federal assistance, colleges may discontinue the program, leaving Fitchburg State students without a college job. Three-hundred and four Fitchburg State students will lose Work Study. Last year, 747,485 students earned on average \$1,098 through the Work Study program. The federal government spent \$613 million and colleges chipped in \$204 million to pay for the program. Without the federal match, it is unlikely that colleges will continue to hire students.

The GOP plan would eliminate Perkins Loans. Last year 222 Fitchburg State students shared in \$289,521 in Perkins Loans assistance. Under the Perkins Loan program, the federal government provides money to colleges to use as a fund for student loans. Colleges use this money to help low income students take out low-interest 5 percent loans to pay for college. In 1994, 744,000 students nationally received an average yearly loan of \$1,342.

Two-hundred and seventy-eight of Fitchburg State's neediest students who received SEOG (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants) will lose in their share of \$172,345 under the Republican plan. SEOG is a direct grant program that goes mostly to low income students. It is considered a supplement to

the Pell Grant program which also pays part of the tuition for low income students. Last year, the federal government spent \$577 million on SEOG for 931,603 low income students, who received on average \$827. Eliminating SEOG will add \$2.890 billion to the cost of going to college for the poorest students in America.

"And, what do you think Newt Gingrich will do with your money?" Olver asked. "Republicans don't plan to use your financial aid to create jobs or pay off the deficit. Your Work Study, SEOG, Perkins and Stafford Loan money will be used to give a huge tax break to wealthy corporate interests," said Olver.

Olver promised to deliver a petition signed by Fitchburg State students and other students from across the First Congressional District to House Speaker Newt Gingrich when the Congress reconvenes after the April recess.

During a White House press conference with more than 100 college reporters, President Clinton vowed to use "the veto pen" to fight Congressional cuts to student aid.

While Clinton said his first choice "is to try and prevail in the debate with Congress," he criticized Republican proposals that seek to cap the number of students participating in the direct student loan program and to eliminate student loan subsidies

A rally of support



photo by Marshal DeLisle

The quality public higher education rally and concert, sponsored by the FSC faculty and SGA, attracted more than 100 students, faculty and staff on April 27 to raise awareness regarding the faculty's unresolved contract and other public higher education issues. Acoustic rock and blues band, 3 Sheets to the Wind, comprised of guitarists, Scott Anderson of Rockport, Kevin Courtemauche of Lynn and drummer, Ted Johnson, of Danvers, entertained spectators with a variety of tunes.

SGA honors students at convocation

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) gave out its annual awards at Spring Convocations on April 20, honoring Bob Hogan, this year's co-director of Freshman Orientation and an Resident Assistant in the New Halls Complex, as Student of the Year. Hogan maintains a 3.71 GPA.

Carlene Johnson, chairperson of the Sexual and Physical Assault Task Force and a resident assistant in Russell Towers, won SGA's Excellence in Leadership Award along with Student Trustee Jean-Pierre Puchulu.

Field Hockey and Track star Wendy Gagliani received Female Athlete of the Year Award while track captain and All-American athlete Kris Theriault was dubbed Male Athlete of the Year.

Barbara Canamuso was cited as Faculty of the Year and Shirley Wagner, Dean of Cur-

riculum and Instruction, was chosen as Administrator of the Year. The Early Childhood Club was honored as the Organization of the Year.

SGA Scholarships were awarded to freshman Zachary Darrow, junior Seth Cooper, freshman Carissa Guertin, sophomore Josef Fitzgerald, and junior Tricia Lee McDonald.

Departmental Scholarships were awarded to the following students: Donald Fraser for Business, Jennifer Wade for Chemistry, Marshal Delisle for English, Mark Witkowski for Industrial Technology, and Prudence Boulanger for Mathematics.

Dean's Graduate Scholarship Recipients include Robin Allard, Marie Bushey, Kim Dowd, Cynthia Hill, Cheryl Kent, Pamela Morin, Bobbie Parsons, Lois Provast, Kim Bellio, Laura Carroll, Dawn Gearin, Chai Jianjun, Susan McCoy, Ann Parisi, Beth Paton, and Patricia Weiss.

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Summer tuition increases

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-chief

Students who plan to take a summer class at FSC are in for a wallet shocker. Tuition for all Graduate and Continuing Education courses has raised an extra \$75 for a three-credit undergraduate class and \$90 for a three-credit graduate class.

Michele Zide, Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education, said that this increase can be attributed to the salary raise of Fitchburg State College fac-

ulty. She said that this department receives no state funding, so all the expenses that the Graduate and Continuing Education department incurs must be paid for through tuition.

Last year's registration fee of \$40 was raised to \$55 and the \$90-a-credit undergraduate tuition was raised to \$110, making the grand total for one three-credit class \$385. The new tuition for graduate classes now stands at \$475 with the tuition per credit raising to \$115 per credit.

Are our books worth the hassle?

by Patricia Cremens
Contributing writer

Spring is here and many students are planning to sell their textbooks back to the bookstore. Students have complained that they do not get much money back after paying, what sometimes seems, extremely high prices for new books.

"I would guess that somewhere between 50 to 60 percent of the books sold are sold back to the bookstore," said Mike Flynn, bookstore manager.

He acknowledged hearing complaints from students regarding buy-back prices.

A book purchased new for forty dollars is bought back for twenty dollars and re-sold for thirty dollars. These prices reflect the end-of-spring buy-back. Prices at other times of the year are lower, he said.

Flynn explained the usual shelf life for certain editions is two-years. The bookstore does not have any say in what books are ordered. The professors order their choice of textbooks directly from the publishers and the bookstore sells the texts no longer used on campus to whole-

salers.

Books are kept on shelves for about six to twelve weeks into the semester. If any books are sent back to the publisher and later needed by a student, Flynn claims he can have the books by special order in a couple days.

One student, who chose to remain anonymous, had attended Mount Wachusett Community College. He discussed a book swap arrangement run by one of the clubs at MWCC. If a member turned in five books to the club, he or she was given a voucher to trade in for five books the following semester. The used textbooks could see a few different owners with only one original investment being paid. Until someone comes up with a similar program at FSC, students are limited to the FSC Bookstore.

Students planning to sell back their books should be aware of the bookstore rules. The book must be in readable condition. Workbooks can not have torn-out pages and students must present a valid FSC student I.D. card to sell a book back.

The buy-back is scheduled for the week of final exams.

Financial aid, continued from page 1

while students are still in college.

Clinton told students that "education is even more important to the general welfare of America than when I was your age," and that "I cannot sit by and watch it go backward."

The President said he was ready to veto any legislation that decreased funding in "areas of education which are so important to me."

"I don't think there's as much enthusiasm in the Senate among Republicans (for cuts in education), and I know the Democrats will oppose eliminating the subsidies, cutting the Pell Grants, eliminating the direct loan program," said Clinton. "So I hope we can prevail in Congress, but the veto pen is always there."

Petitions are available in the SGA office for those who want to help fight against this issue.

This is the last issue of the semester. *The Strobe* would like to wish everyone good luck on their finals!!!

Innocent until proven guilty



photo by Jennifer Scull

Sigma Pi brothers Ed Puliafico (judge) and Paul Harris (magistrate) listen to pleas and set bail to students and faculty arrested on Thursday, April 27 at Sigma Pi's annual Jail-n-Bail fundraiser. Proceeds to the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program at McKay Elementary school and the fraternity.

GLBA holds final coffee social

by Matt White
Contributing writer

Coffee perculators were buzzing as FSC's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) final coffee social of the year on Wednesday, March 26 in the Newman Center.

Members, supporters, professors and administration were in attendance, as were guests from other special interest groups in the area.

"There is a lot more outreach here at the college than there was ten years ago when I was here,"

said Don Robichaud of the Montachusett Area Gay Men's Association. "We need this collaboration in the community, and the work that is being done to bring about this connectedness."

The woman behind this and other GLBA functions is Karen Butler, who has been president of the group for the past four years, and is leaving FSC in May.

"I think the group is prepared for this change. We have strong advisors [Chris Corsello of Residence Life, and Lee Ann Erickson of the Communica-

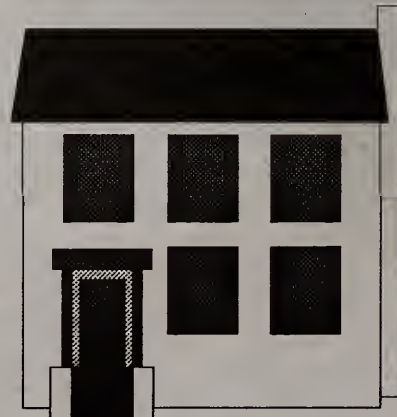
tions department] who will give the leadership the GLBA deserves," said Butler.

"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for us to get together," said FSC student, Jessica Roy. "I am very proud to be a part of this organization. It raises awareness in the student body and it makes me feel like I am not alone."

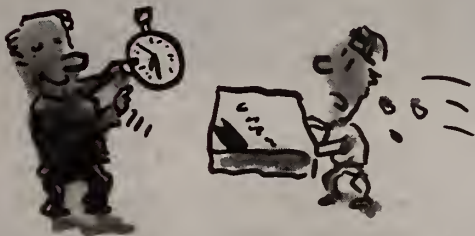
The GLBA will be hosting a get-together on June 3 at FSC for the campus and North Central Massachusetts special interest groups.



If you are looking for an apartment for next semester close to school. Call Mike or Jim at Campus Pizza at 342-3464 or 342-3727



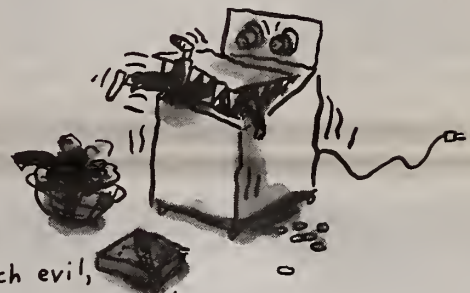
College Life: A Few Things To Know



KNOW: which "30-minutes-or-it's-free" pizza place always takes exactly 31 minutes.



KNOW: which off-campus bookstore will buy back your used \$45 textbooks for more than 25¢ each.



KNOW: which evil, quarter-eating laundromat machines to avoid.



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There are lots of tricky things for you to learn at college, but here's something that's easy: KNOW THE CODE, and save the person on the other end some serious money. You'll be glad you did.

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SGA's 1995 changing of the guard

by Jennifer Scull
Managing editor

The Student Government Association gavel sits in new hands now as Josef Fitzgerald takes over the position as Executive Board President. The "changing of the guards" took place on April 25 at the SGA transitional dinner.

Following in the footsteps of Ed Puliafico will be tough but Fitzgerald is confident that his new council will continue to be an important resource for students. Issues concerning the student body will be attended to and changes affecting student life will be addressed.

"The Student Government Association has the power to help a lot of people," said Fitzgerald. "I joined SGA because it seemed like the best way to get involved and help students with their concerns and problems."

Fitzgerald has served on SGA since his freshman year, representing the class of 1997 as Secretary and excelling to Executive Board Secretary in the spring of 1994. In January, he was appointed to Vice-President, claiming both the Executive Board Secretary and VP positions for the remainder of the semester. Fitzgerald also sits on

the Residence Area Disciplinary Committee (RADC) for the New Halls Complex.

"Since the faculty were working-to-rule this semester, not a lot of changes could be made," said Fitzgerald. "I would like to tackle at least one huge student issue next year."

According to the SGA Constitution, the purpose of SGA is to be the democratic ruling body for and by the students, whose main goals are to unite the student body and address their various needs. Fitzgerald said that since he has been on SGA, a lot of issues have been addressed but "we have never made a drastic change on this campus."

Ed Puliafico served as SGA President from April 12, 1994 to April 25, 1995. Before his presidency, he served as the Public Information Director (fall 93-spring 94), President of the class of 95 (spring 93), Vice-President of the Class of 95 (fall 92) and representative of his class (spring 92).

Puliafico has also served on the Programs Committee as the films chair and the Programs chairperson in his freshman year. He is also one of the founding fathers of Sigma Pi. Puliafico said that he is not as active in this organization as he would like to be and regrets not putting



Ed Puliafico hands Josef Fitzgerald the President's gavel.

photo by Jennifer Scull

in as much time in the frat. He has also been a Resident Assistant for two years, in the Townhouses and in Herlihy.

Puliafico's best moment on SGA, aside from having his picture in the Sentinel, was making the students aware that they could make the changes themselves, with SGA being more of a referral.

"I hope I have been a model for other students," said Puliafico. "I learned a lot about

people and myself and how I interact with them."

A few words of advice from Ed Puliafico to Josef Fitzgerald include: 1) with a new President of the college coming in, you have to let him or her know that the students' voice is strong and that he/she cannot ignore the students because they want to be involved with decisions; 2) know when to let things go on and when to "shut" people off; 3) keep in contact with the admin-

istration; and 4) most importantly have fun. "Sometimes it can get heated in a situation," said Puliafico. "But remember that you are SGA President, but before that you are a student."

Robin Brisson, secretary for SGA, is seen, in Ed's eyes, as the one consistent thing in the office. "We do not have enough money in the SGA budget to thank her for all she does in the

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Sixth graders visit FSC: Campus life explored

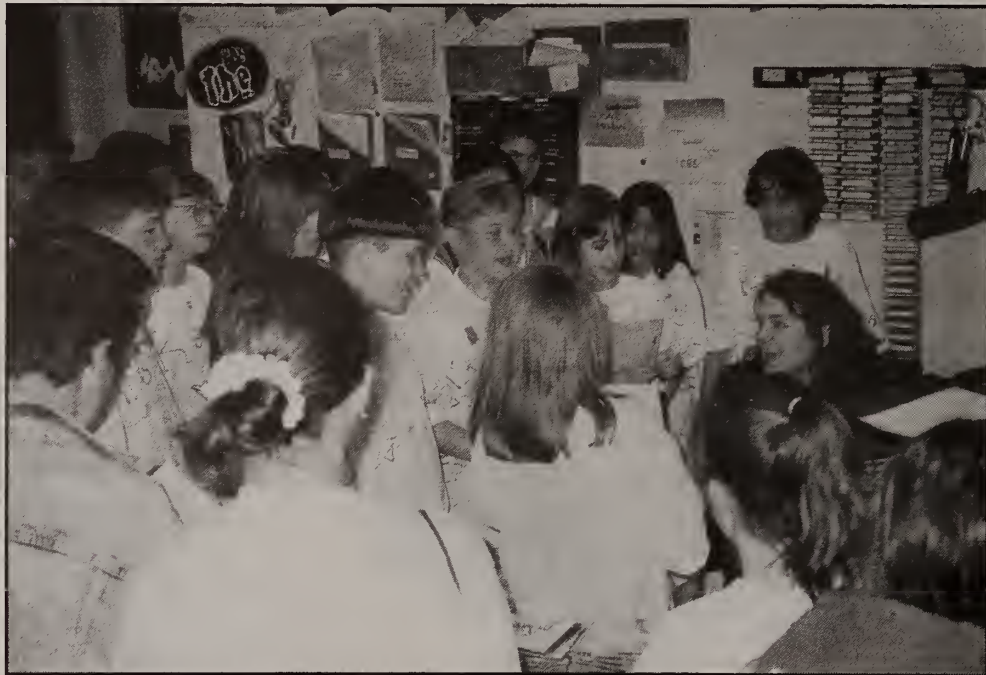
by Jennifer Scull
Managing editor

Math, science, history and english were put on hold so police fingerprinting, pizza making, radio broadcasting and much more could be experienced.

One hundred and twenty sixth grade students from the Northwest School in Leominster took a break from their normal school day activities to spend a day on the Fitchburg State College campus. The day began with a brief slide show introducing them to the college and then tours of various departments on campus.

The Kids to College program began in 1992-93, serving 600 students from Boston, Cambridge and Chelsea. It has expanded to include Lowell, Worcester and Springfield, serving a total of 1,750 students in 1995. The program recognizes that the sixth grade is a critical point for decisions affecting a child's future education.

Kids to College represents a collaboration between the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM), Higher Education Information Center, Higher Education Coordinating Council and Massachusetts Department



Northwest students go on the air with D.J. Kate Schuren

photo by Jennifer Scull

of Education, with funding from the Student Loan Marketing Association in Washington, D.C. (Sallie Mae). The program's main purpose, "higher education is something you can achieve if you plan ahead," encompasses the curriculum and activities of the program.

Some groups visiting the radio station on campus went on the air with D.J. Kate Schuren and said, "This is WXPL 91.3 FM Fitchburg State College."

Another group visited Officer Bill Mayrose in Public Safety and got their fingerprints taken and their alcohol level measured with a breathalyzer test.

Another group, with leader and FSC student Jen Guthrie, was found down in McKay at the education department observing the science fair being held in the elementary school. DAKA food service was invaded by a group of sixth

graders willing to make and eat their own pizza. Derek Valcourt and Kerry Malizia, both FSC students, brought their group to the Communications/Media department, the radio station and The Strobe.

"Initially I felt it was going to be a burden on my staff," said Marke Vickers, Director of Admissions. "But, I saw the true value of introducing kids to college." Vickers said she was very impressed with the behavior and

attitudes of the students. She hopes to introduce the program to more middle schools in the future.

Each tour group visited the library, various academic buildings, the gymnasium, public safety, the admissions department, dormitories and much more.

"I am happy to participate in this type of programming and I hope to do more of this in the future with other elementary schools," said Tim Liptrap, coordinator of these activities. "From what I understand, the children liked it and had a lot of fun."

Liptrap said that Gina Wironen, a sixth grade teacher at Northwest, call FSC to activate the partnership. The relationship with the sixth graders at the Northwest School began over a month ago when Tim Liptrap and other Fitchburg State students visited their school to speak about college life. Many FSC students who previously visited the Northwest school served as tour guides this day.

"The reception of everyone was favorable," said Liptrap of participating offices. "They were glad to help out." Many

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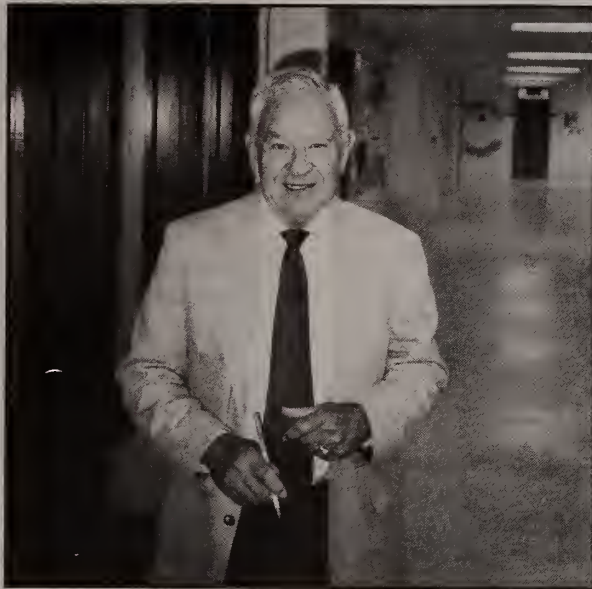
Business professor retires

By Kelly Zakal
Contributing writer

Anyone who thinks all accountants are dull has never met Professor Martin Cusack, who retires at the end of this semester after 13 years at Fitchburg State College. After he handed out an exam to an anxious-looking group of business students, Professor Cusack and I pulled up a chair in the hallway and commenced with his interview. As we spoke some of his colleagues passing by teased him about a commemorative plaque they had dedicated to him in the men's room at McKay. The self-described "Oldest man On Campus" chuckled about it and continued to speak a little about his life and career at Fitchburg State.

Professor Cusack received his BBA from Northeastern University and a Master's degree in Taxation from Bentley College. He taught at Suffolk University, where he was voted "Outstanding Instructor" by his students, and also taught at the University of Southern Maine before coming to FSC in 1982.

The interaction with students has been the best part of the job for him. He says although some students are not as dedicated today as they were when he began teaching at FSC, he takes greater pride in the work ethic and accomplishments of the future accountants he has taught. He



Professor Martin Cusack

photo by Dave Minchenberg

served as advisor to the Student Accounting Society for many of his years at FSC, and has taken students to prospective employers such as the FBI, Federal Reserve and many public accounting firms.

Another part of his life that he is especially proud of is his service in World War II. He was a soldier in the famous 5th Marine Division that raised the flag in Iwo Jima. Last month he attended an emotional 50th reunion of that division in Washington, D.C.

Professor Cusack is married and has four adult children. His home is in Natick, at least for a few more months, then he plans

to live year-round in his rebuilt summer home on Cape Cod. He says if he doesn't "crack up" during retirement he will try to enjoy long walks on the beach and his home in Mashpee. He may also spend some time woodworking and creating stained glass, hobbies he has not had much time for while teaching and especially during tax season.

Beyond his plaque in the men's room at McKay, Professor Cusack has left quite a mark on Fitchburg State, brightening the lives of all the students and faculty he encountered in the years. He also leaves a legacy of numerous successful accountants.

Accounting student wins awards

Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-chief

One time President and Co-owner of three businesses. The Director of Marketing for an independent company. Staff Assistant and Bookkeeper for two local companies. FSC Accounting Society President, Strobe Business Manager, and on and on. Welcome to a day in the life of David Minchenberg, a non-traditional student at Fitchburg State College.

Minchenberg, 30, was recently honored at Spring Convocations Ceremony with the 1995 Association of Government Accountants Scholarship and a Vincent J. Mara Scholarship for Merit. Minchenberg is in the Accounting track of FSC's Business Administration Department where he holds down a 4.0 in his major.

What drives David to do so much so well? "Determination to succeed in my chosen career so I can go on to retire early," said Minchenberg, who plans to graduate from Fitchburg and continue his education with a tax law degree from a top ten school.



David Minchenberg (R) with friend Terry Logan (L) who was nominated by his peers as the top senior accounting student by the Institute of Management Accountants

He currently is looking at Harvard, Georgetown, and New York University but will not know for sure until he takes the state board exams.

Minchenberg, who has lived everywhere from Miami to New York, said that his experiences at Fitchburg have been positive due to the ability to relate his

experiences to classwork. He said that he is able to get more input from his professors as to why certain ventures he took part in may have succeeded and others have failed.

Minchenberg has one year left at the college, and he plans to spend a lot of that time preparing for the law exams.

Police Log

STROBE- Police Log April 9-15, 1995

Sunday, April 9, 1995

DRUG VIOLATION-- Criminal and J-Board complaints filed against resident of Russell Towers.

DISPERSAL-- Of two local females playing in rest room in the Dupont Building.

DISPERSAL-- Of five local youngsters running around Parkinson Gym disturbing open gym and the Fitness Center employees.

Monday, April 10, 1995

HARASSMENT-- Of a resident of Aubuchon Hall by an off-campus person reported to our police.

REQUEST FOR POLICE-- Call from resident of New Halls reporting smelling smoke. Checked area with negative results.

LARCENY-- Of a license plate taken from a car parked at McKay School.

FIRE ALARM-- Activation of a smoke alarm in the New Halls due to burnt food.

Tuesday, April 11, 1995

NOISE COMPLAINT-- Group yelling behind Herlihy Hall told to quiet down.

FIRE ALARM-- At New Halls. Unknown reasons.

NOISE COMPLAINT-- City residents calling to complain about excess noise coming from the Town Houses. Party dispersed.

REQUEST FOR POLICE-- Report of a woman in need of medical attention lying on ground. Campus Police and Rescue Squad dispatched, but subject was gone upon our arrival.

Wednesday, April 12, 1995

ASSIST OTHER DEPARTMENT-- Postal Inspector gathering info for an investigation.

MEDICAL/RESCUE CALL-- Female at New Halls with stomach pains refusing treatment or transport to hospital.

Thursday, April 13, 1995

REQUEST FOR POLICE-- Fight reported in progress at the corner of North and Pearl Streets.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY-- One male subject.

VANDALISM-- To personal property in Russell Towers.

DISPERSAL-- Two males soliciting on campus without authorization.

LARCENY-- Of FSC property from Hammond Building.

FIRE ALARM-- Activated in Russell Towers by talcum powder dust in a detector.

Friday, April 14, 1995

REQUEST FOR POLICE-- Male causing problems in Russell Towers.

DISPERSAL-- One male subject from Russell Towers.

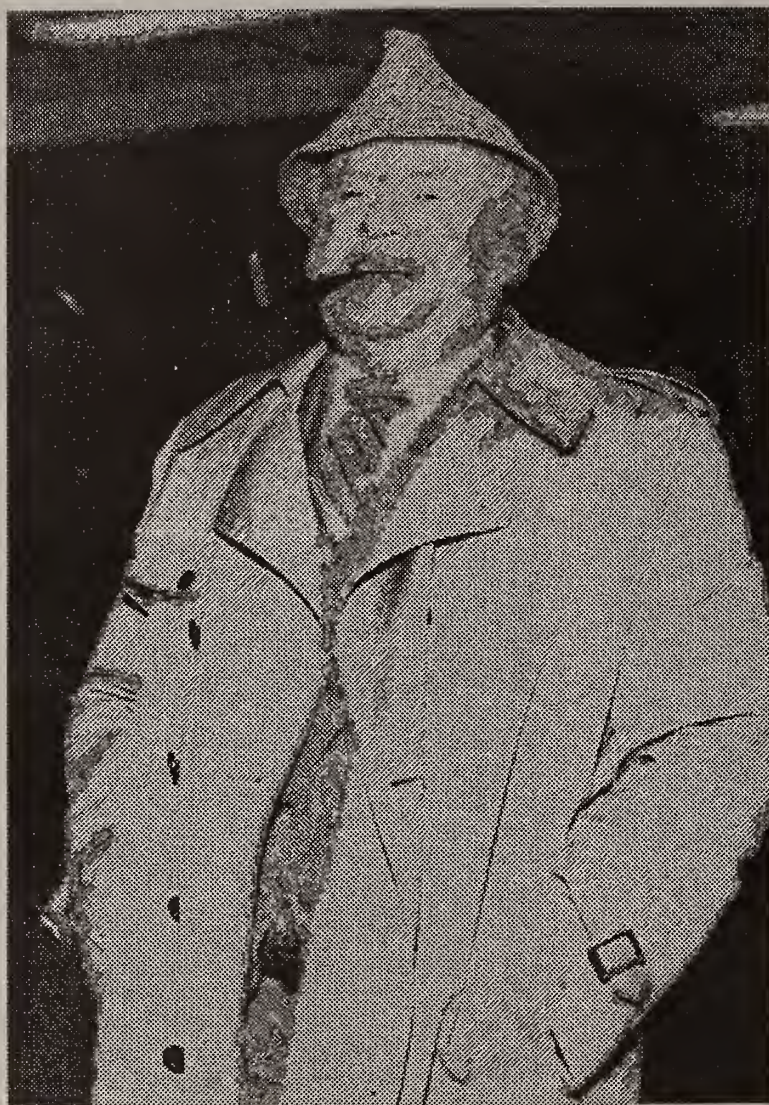
DISPERSAL-- Of three youths on roller skates from Thompson Hall.

DISPERSAL-- Of a local male from the Town House Quad area.

Saturday, April 15, 1995

GENERAL SERVICE-- Checked on the welfare of student for concerned party. All OK at this time.

MOTOR VEHICLE TOWED-- From Authority Drive Fire Lane for being unregistered and uninsured.



Mara retires after 20 years

by Deanna Aldsworth
Advertising manager

The wealth of knowledge housed under the roofs of Fitchburg State College clearly would not be as friendly and beautiful if it had not been for the tireless efforts of President Vincent J. Mara.

Since his arrival as President of FSC in 1976, President Mara has strived "to have the most open, accessible set-up for students to deal with their President, around." Through the establishment of the Monday afternoon 'President's Conference Hour,' Mara has begun a system of relating to students that is unique to this college.

The Alumni Association has been totally created under the watchful eye of Mara. "Clearly I am very proud of the Alumni Association," he said. This organization went from a small-time operation out of someone's home to an office on campus. "It is a thriving, exciting group of old and young alumni coming together to raise money for the college," said Mara.

This year alone the Alumni Association has distributed over \$40,000 in scholarships, \$20,000 in equipment purchases for the college, as well as a job networking system that has just recently been established.

Residence Life would not be where it is today without Dr. Mara's perseverance. Two new residence facilities were built on campus, the Townhouse complex and the New Halls.

"I will miss some people on this campus. People I have worked closely with and have formed a close relationship with over the years, both faculty and staff, and I will miss my kids on Monday afternoons," said President Mara.

There are obviously many different things about this college and the State College system that President Mara will not miss. "I will not miss the Boston Bureaucrats or Collective Bargaining. I will not miss phone calls at 5 a.m. from irate college neighborhood residents." An interesting point to convey is that President Mara lists himself in the phone book, something which most college presidents would not dream of.

There are many hurdles that Dr. Mara did not accomplish as he had hoped to before his departure. Things like a parking garage, a new gym, a new science building, "... priorities I had set for myself," he said. However, due to the state's budget crunches no one has been able to procure permission to undertake such endeavors in the entire state college system.

Due to the dedication of President Mara, this college has become the beautiful place that it is today. Attention to the little details, such as grounds maintenance and a general beautification of the entire campus, has made FSC attractive to many prospective students.

With the arrival of the new President, Dr. Mara will recede into his own world of happy retirement. "I will still read about the college in the Sentinel and I will still attend events on campus, but the last thing the new President needs is a twenty-year veteran breathing down his neck," said Mara. However, due to promises made, he will continue his involvement with the Fitchburg State College Foundation, until the new President is comfortable with the role.



President Mara to deliver commencement address

by Ethan Mai
Contributing writer

President Vincent J. Mara will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary degree at the college's 99th commencement exercises on May 27.

Thousands of parents, friends and relatives of the graduates will gather on the college quadrangle for the 10:30 a.m. ceremony.

Also slated to receive honorary degrees are former State Senator Calvin B. Harrington, Boston Attorney Charles F. Mahoney and President of Tianging Medical University, Dr. Yi Tai-Tsui.

A community leadership award will be given to Ronald E. Hurd and Rev. Edward Neuhaus will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award.

A reception will be held outside the Hammond Building immediately following commencement exercises.

From the corner office

By Vincent J. Mara
FSC President

Well, we're both looking toward the end of the academic year, the Strobe trying to complete its program with appropriate stories heading toward final exams, and me in the corner office that I have held for nearly twenty years. In connection with this latter situation, the Strobe has asked that I write a farewell message and I am pleased to do so.

Throughout my tenure I have been a strong supporter and defender of the Strobe. As a one-time anti-administration undergraduate editor of a student paper, I have felt great empathy with the students who have worked diligently to bring us a good student paper. - and I must say that it has greatly improved over the years. Part of this improvement is due to technology, which allows more frequent issues, and mostly to the zeal of the students working with faculty as part of their academic life here.

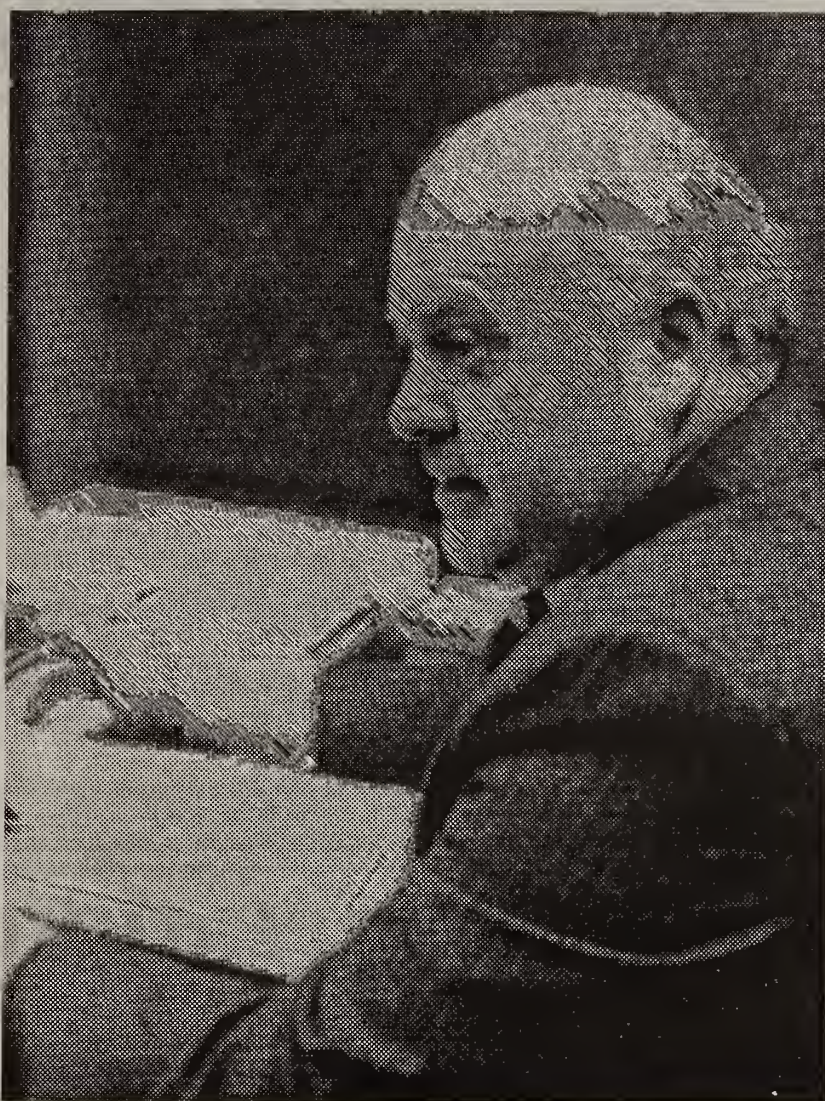
For a number of years I wrote regular columns entitled, "From The Corner Office," dealing with a host of normal issues that occur every year on the campus, from budgeting to legislative issues to other areas of concern that directly impacted students. The paper has also probably had more interviews with me on a variety of issues that anyone would care to remember. All of this has been in the best spirit of what has been good for Fitchburg State College, and I have enjoyed both the compliments and criticisms through the years.

Most important to me throughout all these years have been the students. This institution has opened its doors for over 100 years to people who have come here to use their newly-gained knowledge and degree to get the moving on a professional career— often as a way of upward mobility from earlier family traditions. While many of our students come to us unsophisticated and untraveled, it has been the mark of this institute that all of our students have been goal-oriented and have grown in different and extraordinarily good ways during their undergraduate years. Without colleges like ours, access to college education would be denied to thousands and our state, indeed our civilization, would suffer enormously.

So it has been to our students that I have dedicated my effort, and I believe that students have benefitted from the results: from strengthening the alumni who now give increasing financial support for the students; to the establishment of our college Foundation to raise money for scholarships and extra programs not available from the state; to defending the need for quality faculty in sufficient number; to the practice of open house sessions every Monday for students to drop in and complain, criticize, ask questions, or play cribbage; to the unannounced visits to the dining and residence halls to see if things were moving all right; to the literally thousands of events Mrs. Mara and I have attended at the invitation of students throughout these years, from dances, to plays, to band concerts, to athletic events and banquets, to SGA activities and transitional dinners, to the marches and protests in Boston from time to time because of budget difficulties, and so on and so on. We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the people we have served throughout the years.

Quite naturally I have known some students better than others. Typically, student leaders have been more directly in contact with me because they had questions or needed advice. There are a myriad of students who did not get to know me personally, but they could have had the opportunity through the years on Monday afternoons. Many of them did not want to do that because they felt it was not an important part of their college education -- and indeed they were probably right. What is important to remember, however, is that at this institution we have enjoyed a friendly, familial atmosphere that has made it possible for every person who studies or works here to get along on very good terms, promoting the sense that a college education in the right setting can be both successful and a happy experience.

Now as we look forward to new leadership, I leave you with very strong words about the quality of this "uncommon public college." The students here are fortunate to have dedicated professors who work with them regularly as teachers and advisors. Unlike what occurs in many of the more expensive private institutions, the students here are not taught by student assistants, they get to meet our quality faculty, among whom are some outstanding figures and publishers in their field. Students have also benefitted from a competent staff, all of whom are trying, often under difficult circumstances, to make things run as smoothly as possible so that there is the greatest gain for the students in the best managed and least expensive delivery mode. Suffice it to say, I have enjoyed my presidency among you and will leave with great affection for so many. I'm leaving a very strong institution with a proud past and a very promising future. I wish for all of the Strobe readers the very best for times ahead.



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The Strobe considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Strobe* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

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Great expectations

by Leo Bray
Opinion editor

Last spring, when I was asked to take this position, I was both excited and leery, but mostly excited. I thought it would be great to spend my final year at FSC as a *Strobe* staffer. I had all kinds of great expectations. Allow me to share with you how my fellow students have dashed them to the ground and stomped upon them.

I knew before I accepted this job that there might be problems such as getting enough submissions to fill the Opinion section every week. But while I knew I would have to write almost every week, I had no idea how much. Because I received letters to the editor and other submissions very sporadically, I sometimes had to write four editorials for one issue. You probably got sick of hearing from me sometimes; it was probably obvious that I was hard-up for ideas in certain issues. Well, too bad! YOU should have written something.

The letters I did receive have been the topic of endless discussion filled sometimes with laughter, but more often with despair. It seems that the only things FSC students really care about are parking and masturbation. Because I wanted to keep the paper timely, I did not print letters, received weeks later, responding to particular articles. How can someone profess to care deeply about something, in a letter that's over two weeks out of date? If they had been really angry, or had cared deeply in any way, wouldn't they have written earlier? It's unfortunate that some people took so long

to respond; some of the letters were quite good.

I sometimes became so desperate for feedback from *Strobe* readers or so incensed over some issue that I wrote editorials with the sole intention of pissing people off. I would read these over and think, "This'll get 'em. They'll flip out. I'll probably get half a dozen responses!" How many people responded to this venom and vituperation? None. I only heard through third- and fourth-hand reports that people were angry with me; I don't even know who they are (although I've been told that many of them are on SGA). Why didn't they come down here (I've had office hours posted all year), call me or, God forbid, WRITE?

Some of the complaints I have received throughout this year have been utterly asinine; even some of these were printed. It often seemed as though the writers had heard about the articles they responded to, but not read them. In many cases, I received multiple letters addressing the same point, so we only printed the best. In this very issue, we're actually including some very emotional letters, if only because of the quantity of responses to a single article.

While I could easily produce a thousand-word tirade concerning the FSC students' victimology fixation, which I've dubbed The Crybaby Complex—I'll be happy to go off about it verbally if anyone's interested—I'll try to keep it short. Our own Editor in Chief, Derek Valcourt was in the recent dance show. If the *Strobe* reviewer had disliked any of Derek's numbers, he would have said so in the review, and Derek would not have censored that opinion;

they're journalists. I don't exactly agree with every opinion I print, either.

Jason Koivu's review of "Expressions," like a review of anything, written by anybody, appearing in any publication, was SUBJECTIVE—look it up. Here are a couple of gems to consider from Nora Ephron, the writer behind "When Harry Met Sally": "The difference between being a grown-up and being a child is knowing that there are consequences to what you do," and, "You can't please everyone, so why not please . . . what you perceive to be your ideal reader?"

Sometimes, article submissions were discarded because I wanted to give you good writing to read, without having to sprain my editorial muscle. Letters were never excluded simply because of poor writing quality; they're usually shorter, and therefore easier to edit. I must add that I've received some very fine writing for submission to this section. I have also received some of the worst writing I've ever encountered. I never imagined that editing would be as torturous as it's been on some occasions.

Despite all these problems at *The Strobe*, the same problems plaguing FSC in general—lack of participation, pettiness, whining, ignorance, poor writing, and of course the 'A' word—I would do it all again. It's mostly been fun. I've met some great people, learned a lot, polished my writing (maybe a little?) and gained experience that might prove useful some day; you never know. Well, c-ya! I'm outta heah like a bald guy.

Putting it all together

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-chief

I originally intended to write about what I considered to be a cheap shot on the part of some faculty to not attend the Convocation ceremony. While I'm on the subject, I'd like to take the time to recognize the few faculty and staff who, with a great deal of tact and respect for their own profession, did not let contract negotiations keep them from recognizing and appreciating their students by attending convocation.

However, I decided that I'd like to take this opportunity, the last issue of the semester, to recognize what I consider to be one of the best *Strobe* staffs I have ever worked with in my three years of on this newspaper.

This semester's staff was nothing short of a blessing from God to me. Though the beginning of the semester brought some staff problems, Jennifer Scull and I led a great team of patient and hard working staff members. Leo Bray is to be commended for his excellence in editorial writing and Jason Koivu for his ability to write some of the best and most insightful reviews I have ever read. Norman Miller and Marshal DeLisle devoted more time to filling their own sections when writers were hard to come by. Thania Lemaire had the courage to jump on board the *Strobe* staff halfway into the semester without any writing experience.

Advertising, business, photography, and above all, my production team have the patience

of saints and have really turned the quality of their departments around. These people will all hear this commendation tonight at our end of the semester banquet, but I feel they deserve the recognition now.

Above all, I can honestly say that this paper would not have been near the quality it was, if not for one of my closest friends and *Strobe* Managing Editor, Jennifer Scull. She took initiative unparalleled by any other that has sat in her position including myself, and raised the standards of that position to a point that will be hard to match. Jen is a true leader, and I'm sure

that most of the staff who have been here for any time would agree, she demanded a quality of excellence from all of the staff's works, but by all means was

fair, friendly, and fun. Honestly, I don't know what I'm going to do next semester without her.

The *Strobe* has been criticized for publishing late in the semester and more frequently by groups or individuals that don't agree with or like particular articles. After attending college newspaper conferences in the area, I can assure you that this is nothing out of the ordinary for a small school paper that operates completely on volunteer work. The staff has certainly "informed, entertained, and persuaded" the student body of Fitchburg State College. I've learned more about life from these clowns than I have from any of my professors, and I look forward to one more semester of stressful pride.



Four years of change

by Delilah Larimore
Contributing writer

Every now and again, I'll hear someone mention how bad it is to live here at FSC—how there is never anything to do, how bad the cafeteria food is and how there are no choices of what to eat. Then there is that ever-continuing subject, the parking problem. When I hear people complaining I think back to September, 1991, when I first came here, and how different it was.

Way back then this campus was so different and so difficult that it was almost impossible to stay here on campus. Quite a number of people that I knew back then transferred to other school due to this problem. As a matter of fact, more than half the people that I met freshman year are gone now.

By now you are asking what I mean by "different," and are

probably wondering how it could get much worse at FSC. Well, it was. DAKA was completely different, you would hardly have recognized it compared to the way it is now. There was no pizza bar, no pasta bar and no ice cream machine. There is a much wider assortment of food at the salad bar and in general now. Even the taste of the food has improved greatly.

Let's not forget the new and improved Commuter Cafe, that I would have given just about anything to have had freshman year. The old Commuter Cafe was low on choices and high on prices. Also, there is the big improvement in the choices on the meal plan. These are just a few of the differences that have occurred over the years. Oh, one other thing: the general atmosphere and the attitudes of the

Continued on page 9.

Letters to the editor



I would like to comment on the review in the Strobe (April 19) of "Expressions." I realize the article was only one person's opinion, but that one opinion hurt a lot of people. Some of the numbers criticized were comprised of people who have danced for many years and some for whom this was their first performance. I hope they have not lost all self-confidence.

The dancers begin work on this show in September, coming faithfully to non-credit classes. What they work so hard for is the personal gratification on the night of the show. The writer also commented that the dancers' nerves "seemed to get the better of them." Wouldn't anyone be nervous on stage in front of hundreds of their peers?

This article is the only piece of negative feedback we have received. The majority of the campus, including President Mara enjoyed the show immensely.

I would like to congratulate all the dancers who performed in the show, as well as our sound and lighting technicians who did a wonderful job but were not given the credit they deserved. This was the best show yet!

Melissa Monahan, Dance Club President

I was appalled when I read the article about "Expressions." The dance show consisted of over 100 students with, as the announcer said, dance talent "from one semester to nineteen years." I think the writer forgot that we weren't competing for a medal; it was for fun.

He was correct in saying that Elizabeth Fromentin's dance was well executed. But did he forget the other three solos? A dance that is completely choreographed and done by a single person is a dance well worth mentioning. As the audience's applause clearly showed, they all did a wonderful job.

"Torture of the Equinox" and "Head Like a Hole" were definitely different, but they got great responses from the audience, which must have left the writer the only one confused. Give credit where credit is due; some of these girls never danced before.

He also seem to have forgotten the countless hours of practice and thought that went into this dance show. Melissa Monahan and the rest of the Dance Club teachers did their best, and they deserve more credit than they were given.

For \$2 a ticket, I doubt the writer went home complaining after the show. If he wants perfection, he can go see the Boston Ballet.

Shannon Sontag, student

As a dancer, I must defend those who poured their hearts and souls into "Expressions," only to have their pieces criticized by Jason Koivu.

Jason overlooked many of the positive aspects of the show while emphasizing the flaws. He had nothing good to say about the most powerful piece in the show, the opening number. I have seen "The Phantom of the Opera" dance performed numerous times during rehearsals, and it had never looked as magnificent as it did the night of the show.

Jason criticized the "Torture of the Equinox" and Nine Inch Nails numbers, saying they "didn't work," when they did—he just missed it! I would like to know what kind of dance background this author has. He obviously does not appreciate the hard work and dedication that is required to choreograph and perform on stage. I hope next year there will be a more capable writer to review the show, one who knows what he is talking about!

Sherri Nobriga, student

I don't know if Anna Allen (author of "Phone-a-thon rings in the money," The Strobe, April 12) was worried that it would compromise her objectivity, or if she is simply too modest to mention it, but it should be noted that she has been indispensable as the fourth member of the student phone-a-thon management team. Anna has served as statistician for a year and a half, keeping track of hundreds of thousands of dollars in Alumni Fund pledges. Before that, she was a top-notch caller in her own right.

Student management teams are unique in fund-raising operations such as ours. I'm often asked by colleagues at other colleges how we do it, so they can implement such teams at their own institutions. FSC has a right to be proud of its tradition of student leadership and managers Anna, Ken Kilduff, Michelle Browne and Ginger Boormeester.

And while I've got your attention, we're beginning to recruit callers for the 1995-96 academic year. So come on by the Alumni Association and fill out an application if you're interested.

Thanks again to the student phone-a-thon managers and all of the 1994-95 callers who made this year such a success.

Cynthia Melcher, Director of Alumni Giving

You may not know it, but FSC has an important computer lab in a little room on Hammond's third floor. It is called the Adaptive Computer Lab, and it is a resource for individuals with disabilities. Over two years ago, the administration made a commitment to establishing and funding this lab, and created a full-time Disability Services Coordinator position. FSC is committed to making the academic experience a positive one for people with disabilities.

The goal of the Lab is to level the so-called playing field of computers. An individual who has low vision may need a TSR program that enlarges the screen. An individual who has no movement below the neck may need to run the computer by voice alone. The Lab also has: a mini one-handed keyboard, a keyguard, a braille printer, large monitors, voice synthesizers, a scanner system, a closed-circuit TV and talking calculators and spellers. These and the many other assistive hardware/software solutions are what make this an Adaptive Lab.

You might think the equipment seems exciting and want to check the Lab out. Disability Services encourages all students to come see the Lab. Their goal is to expand awareness of people with disabilities. But please remember, the Adaptive Computer Lab is available for use only to FSC students with disabilities.

The Adaptive Computer Lab is the "helping hand" for many FSC students. Without it and Disability Services, attendance at FSC would be difficult for some students, and impossible for others.

Robert A. Gates, Massachusetts Easter Seal Society

"Err! Err!" Your alarm clock goes off anytime between 7 and 8 a.m. A lot of students living on campus with a vehicle go through this routine day in and day out. The routine is waking up by 8 a.m.

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Pretty vacant



Galen Abdur Razzag, flutist.

Photo by Heather Thomkinson.

by Jason Koivu
A&E editor

This is just what I was talking about in the opinion article I wrote for Issue 7 of The Strobe entitled "Stop Getting Stupid." In that article I complained about how FSC students continuously waste Thursday nights at lame keg parties. I felt that more productive and self-fulfilling entertainment could easily be sought out. Such was the case a few Thursdays past when the Galen Abdur-Razzag jazz trio graced the Pub with actual, honest-to-goodness culture.

Yes, culture. Not the "cheeseburger in paradise" crap that usually tops the bill at the Pub.

"So what the hell is the problem, Koivu?" you're probably asking yourself. This is the problem: there were only eleven people at the show. Out

of the thousands of students at FSC there were less than a dozen in attendance. That translates to somewhere around .2 percent of the school's population.

What the hell is the problem with you people?

Of course, I'm not ignorant of the fact that jazz is an acquired taste. But I personally know of quite a few jazz enthusiasts at this campus and none of them were there. It's too bad, because they missed one hell of a show. I never figured such hot, "cool" jazz could be conjured by a trio including drums, bass and flute. I'm sure any of the other ten people there would tell you just how incredible these musicians were.

But even though it was free and held early in the evening (8 to 9:30 p.m.), so you still had plenty of time to get to the party at prime-time, only a handful of

Continued on page 11.

Change, continued from page 8.

DAKA workers has greatly improved. They are much more outgoing and friendly toward the students.

Other changes at FSC are in the Campus Center. My freshman year we had the Game Room, which has not changed all too much, the bi-weekly Comedy Nights and Coffee Houses, and films twice a week in Ellis White. We now also have the Smart Van, which takes students down to the train and bus stations on Fridays and picks them up on Sundays. I also will take students to a number of different places, ranging from the mall to an athletic club to a roller skating rink, all on Thursdays. This is one luxury that we seniors did not have when we first arrived, so I hope you all take advantage of it, or you could lose it.

Aside from the brand-new magnificent weight room and dance studio, which I notice is used quite a bit by students who realize what a wonderful gift it is, there is the "parking problem," which I do not see as a problem. Each morning I get up before anyone else, hoping that I will be lucky enough to

get a parking spot within five minutes of my dormitory, Herlihy. Each morning, as I walk my ten-minute walk back I think about freshman year, when there were no cars allowed for those who lived on campus. We did not have the Smart Van yet and, not having a car to drive, I spent many a Friday afternoon walking down North Street to get the bus, and many a Sunday evening walking back in the dark up North Street—alone, because the student escorts would not even go that far off campus at night, due to the high crime rate.

One other thing that has been on this campus since I was a freshman is the Rescue Squad, who have faithfully responded to the cries of the students and others, without much recognition. So as you are complaining because there is nothing to do, or whining each morning because you have to get up before dawn to move your car, just think, you could be confined to campus with no car, bad food, no rescue service, no money and nowhere to spend it if you had it anyway, just as myself and my senior friends were stricken my freshman year here at FSC.

Free college

by Sean McArdle
Contributing writer

How would you react to the headline "Woman graduates college and it doesn't cost her a dime"? Sounds like a pretty good deal, doesn't it? Well, as hard as it is to believe, it happens all the time. You may ask how that can be, someone has to pay, and they do. You and your parents pay, because this woman is on welfare. The only difference between her and you is that she had a baby and is not married. Is this right? I don't think so.

The welfare system in Massachusetts is in need of a major overhaul. The state paying for a college education, simply because a woman had a baby is probably one of the better aspects of a system that rewards people for doing nothing and penalizes others who try to make it on their own. You probably have read the stories in the papers about women having babies to get more money from the state, or couples getting divorced just so they can be eligible for welfare, and my favorite, mothers dropping their kids off at free day care and going home. They don't even have to get a job! You have also heard stories of families going from generation to generation on welfare and living in the projects. There is no time line for welfare; you can be on it for as long as you want. These situations are the results of a system that has gotten out of control.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in giving someone a handout when they are down, but I don't believe in endless handouts. Welfare came about during the Great Depression. Its original purpose was to give people temporary relief until they got back on their feet. But like so many other programs that started off with noble intentions, welfare has taken a turn for the worse. We need to get it back to its original purpose, temporary relief. I stress the word "temporary"; people should not live on welfare.

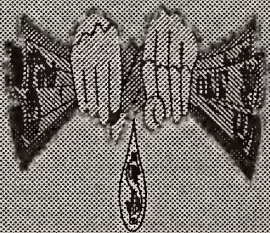
Why should we care? Welfare is paid for with our tax money, which could go to other programs like education, keeping tuition down for all state college students, or police to help curb the amount of crime in our cities or, and this is a radical idea, a reduction in taxes. There are a good many people who are struggling to make ends meet. A tax deduction for these people could make a world of difference and perhaps keep them off of the welfare rolls.

Let me tell you a story: A young woman I know got pregnant and didn't want to go on welfare. She got a job and was trying to make it on her own. However, when things got too tough, she went to the state for a little help; she couldn't get it. If she quit her job and stayed home, then she could get all the state has to offer: money, day care, food stamps, fuel assistance and yes, education. What incentive is there for such a person to try to make it on their own? Currently, none.

O.K., what should we do about it? To begin, we should stop rewarding people for doing nothing. Welfare is not and should not be a charity. If the state is going to give you something, you should have to work for it. There is always something that you could do to earn your benefits, even if it is making phone calls for such things as the census.

We need a program that will train people for jobs and assist them in getting jobs by offering tax credits to companies that hire them. Once the state has helped an individual get a job, they should not be eligible to go back on welfare. Another plan would be to reward people who are trying to make it on their own by giving some assistance when needed. The one thing that should stop immediately is the state paying more money when a mother has another baby. If anything, the state should require a woman to be on birth control while she is on welfare.

There is only one way to stop welfare abuse, and that is to change the system. For this reason, please support welfare reform. It will benefit everybody, even the people currently on it, by giving them more self-esteem while making it on their own.



Things you must experience before leaving FSC

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe writer

Yes, that time has finally reached me. Graduation. It has been six years since I walked across a stage in some ridiculous robe, received a diploma and shook the hand of someone I hardly knew, who acted like he was personally very proud of me. I think the whole thing is a bunch of hogwash—a bunch of posing and posturing by administrative people attempting to validate what parents and students have spent their hard-earned money on. An education is no bargain.

Classroom education aside, there are certain college experiences that did not count for credit, which must be experienced before leaving the picturesque scenery and monument to learning we like to call FSC:

1.) Paying good money for a class that you have no desire to take and which has nothing to do with your major.

2.) Being harassed by clubs and organizations because of certain articles printed in the Strobe and the overall decadent atmosphere present on this campus.

3.) Attending a party that is not inundated with meatheads wearing yellow and green jackets. Such parties used to be found at the Barn, but may now be found at the Attic. Please stay away from all other parties. They are merely the settings for rites of passage like date rapes and beer brawls.

4.) Having an empty keg thrown through your car window. This was of course my fault, because I should have realized this was going to happen when a bunch of students broke into an abandoned building next to where my car was parked and started a party.

5.) Watching the sunrise after a long night of reveling.

6.) Laughing at all the people making the "walk of shame" home when you actually make it to your Friday 8:30 class.

7.) Learning how to manipulate your schedule so you don't have any Friday classes.

8.) Having a professor remember your name outside of class. Hell, I must have done something right.

9.) Listening to some conservative college administrator pontificate about the plight of the American educational sys-

tem at a formal dinner. Excuse me, I'm trying to digest!

10.) Chipping away at your life savings or starting a payment plan so you can have a coffee and muffin each morning before school.

11.) Realizing that you could actually spend less money on a coffee and muffin in Harvard Square than at FSC, including your T fare.

12.) Having a conversation with a foreign student. Truly enlightening. I mean that seriously.

13.) Conquering your fear of computers.

14.) REGISTRAR! REGISTRAR! REGISTRAR!

15.) The final realization that you really didn't learn much in college. Knowledge gained in college is like your sex drive after losing your virginity; you become aware of the existence of something incredible and you want more of it so badly that you spend the rest of your life trying to get your fill. I suppose in that respect, college has served its purpose for me as it should for any student. You are introduced to knowledge, and if the college is successful, that becomes a life-long relationship.

Affirmative advantage

by Ron Taupier
Strobe writer

You have finally received your long-awaited degree from FSC. For four years, perhaps longer, you have endured painstaking examinations and long hours of class only to have joined the millions of people across the globe known as "the educated." You are now qualified, or so you feel, to attain that job that pays the bucks that will pay the bills. But do some "educated" individuals stand a better chance than you due to their race, ethnic background, sex, physical condition or battle history? In today's society, without a doubt!

Civil Rights activists call this Affirmative Action. Generally, it's a request that employers and labor unions take steps to improve the job and advancement opportunities for people who have been deprived of these opportunities. This philosophy is unfair and I have great difficulty seeing any positives generated from it.

Isn't the sole purpose of getting an education to better oneself, gain the knowledge and skills needed to survive in the job market, and obtain valuable work experience to succeed in life? I sure as hell didn't sweat through some difficult courses only to be overlooked during my job search because a company was seeking more women

or minorities to fill its payroll. As harsh as it sounds, I feel this ideology is unfair and companies that practice such unjustifiable procedures in hiring and promoting should take a closer look at their applicants!

By no means is this short editorial meant to provide any solutions to the problems arising from Affirmative Action legislation; but I find myself trapped in a world of competition. It is becoming more and more difficult to get into your "dream" college or to land the job you are seeking. This competition stems from legislation aimed at enhancing the opportunities for minorities and women. The latter are the more prevalent in Affirmative Action cases.

Historically, women and minorities have been deprived of advancement in the labor force; but should society and the government reward them by giving them better chances of climbing the corporate ladder, through quota systems that require companies to employ "the disadvantaged?"

Indeed, society has been striving for equality among individuals for years. The work environment within the next five years will undoubtedly be reaching for complete "fairness" in employment. If this is the case, Affirmative Action programs can be dismantled! After all, the definition of fairness is to be just to all persons, without consider-

ations of color, ethnic background or sex.

Of course, there are skeptics who believe persons judged to be "disadvantaged" should be provided with a better opportunity to succeed. I response to this, I can only say that they are naive to think that society owes these people anything due to their skin color or sex.

A very good friend of mine is Hispanic and was brought up on the streets of Brooklyn. He and I share an identical viewpoint on this Affirmative Action ideology: A person's chance to succeed should be based solely on knowledge, skills, ability, work experience and level of education. In response to the "underprivileged," I say there is always an escape route. So much weight is placed on family values these days, and this has a direct impact on people as they mature and gain the self-respect and self-confidence to excel in everything they do!

I am not claiming that any minorities are using Affirmative Action theories as a crutch to help them through the job market; I am simply stating that there is no need for such programs because the world is becoming incredibly diverse. More important characteristics and qualifications should be taken into account when it comes time for acceptance in the corporate arena.

One sizzling weekend

by Gina Procopio
Strobe writer

It bothers me that this college is regarded as a suitcase college. I greatly agree with that statement, but I wish it wasn't true. During Spring Sizzle weekend I was so impressed with the activities that were offered. For the first time that I can remember in the two years that I have been here at FSC there was something to do on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and a coffee house on Sunday. Hell, there was even an open mic night on Monday! The weird part was that these were campus sponsored events! They didn't even take place in a horrible basement, as you wondered what the liquid you were standing in was. And for that matter, just what is in the punch? Scary, you might agree.

I'm not the party girl type, actually I've been to two in oh, about two years, one of which I was at for about ten minutes. In that span of time, I had all the party scene I needed, so generally I am either working or on duty as an RA in Russell(it keeps you pretty busy and you learn

pretty fast to be annoyed by drunks) or just hanging out with friends on the weekend. If something really good to do comes along, I do it, but that is rare. Yet, this time I was out all weekend. All of my suite mates thought it was a miracle. There



was actually something offered that I wanted to go to!

People want to give the party crowd a bad name because they do what they do, but what else is there? The campus center, which is for the students, is usually closed by five on the weekends. This schedule doesn't serve many students I know. People wonder why E-mail gets such a big crowd. It's entertaining. And something to do!

The karaoke night that was held in the pub during the Spring Sizzle events actually ran past one a.m. How shocking! There was also quite a large crowd of people that were having a great

time. I'm surprised that whole idea of running so late wasn't shot down at the planning board. I don't know if the people that run events are on to this but college students don't usually go out until after nine sometimes. People need to work or eat dinner or catch up on sleep, all those good college things before they can go out. That kills an activity that ends at eleven. Two hours of rip-roaring fun, kids! An event that runs until one should be commonplace. That is what a college schedule is like. If you have ever been in a residence hall you will note that there is plenty of activity until one or two a.m.

The sponsors of the Spring Sizzle programs should be given a special pat on the back. Weekends like this one are what college life should be like. A student should want to stay on campus for the weekend. If you want to put up signs that say you don't need to drink to have fun, then prove it. This weekend was a good start.

Stop embarrassing us

by Aimee Andrews
Contributing writer

When you walk across this campus, do you see the line? Do you see the little groups who never choose to speak to or learn about other individuals in the college community, or for that matter get involved in the community? I do, and I'll tell you where I see it.

I don't think I've ever seen an African-American community so divided against itself. It takes cheap shots in The Strobe to wake people up to participate in the education and world before them. As an African-American, it sickens me. Don't get me wrong, there are those of us who are actively involved on this campus and we deserve credit. But what is preventing the other young sisters and brothers attending this college from doing something other than answering "beeps" at the G-lobby phones in between classes?

Frankly, you're an embarrassment. Who you are on this campus, as a minority, is what you do with the education that is sitting in your lap. Too many have taken this for granted. As individuals, we have the means to fight what is holding us down, but the truth is that we're so busy hurting one another that there is no room for progress. Is that what Black pride is all about? Hold your brother down and cut your sister loose, and we are the only people who suffer.

I hope for the sake of personal growth, that each of you whom I have touched or even pissed off in the last two paragraphs, takes your anger and does something with it. Many students have not had a productive year and believe it or not, it affects us all.

Don't test me

by Keith Fredericks
Strobe writer

One time I walked into my Sociology class with extreme panic. I had a test that day, and the only studying I had done was in DAKA while eating a fried egg. The egg was over-easy, and surprisingly, the test was, too.

It turned out that I aced that test. I got the second highest grade in the class. My friend who studied all night got a C+. I thought it was funny. I didn't, however think it was funny when the same thing happened again, only this time, I studied and got a C.

Why aren't tests fair? The purpose of an exam is to test your knowledge of material that you have read or been taught. Why then do I get inconsistent grades when I study consistently? Obviously some people grasp certain concepts faster than others. I accept that fact, but only in a class where an exam takes more reasoning than study repetition.

A test system isn't working when someone who has little knowledge about a subject can get a higher grade than those who have more. It's not just unfair, it's ludicrous!

Everyone has their own favorite types of tests. Some like essays because students can charm the teacher into thinking that they understand the material. Some like "multiple choice" questions because they allow students to pick the right answer, which is a lot easier than pulling it out of thin air. Those that don't study love "true or false" tests because students have a 50-50 chance on the answers that they don't know. I person-

ally hate them all.

I'm not whining because I do badly in school. I actually do well. It troubles me to realize that I know more about taking tests than I know of the material on them. What am I learning? I can't recollect half the stuff I memorize two seconds after I put my pen down. My GPA shows more of my study and test-taking abilities than how intelligent or knowledgeable I am.

At the end of this semester I will take two or three finals that will supposedly test my accumulated knowledge of my classes. What these finals will actually test is how late I'm willing to stay up studying.

This might sound petty, but if I study all week for an exam that turns out to be "true or false," and I get the same grade as someone who didn't study at all, it ticks me off. Everyone knows that "true or false" questions are usually tricky. If they weren't tricky, they would be easy. The fault in these questions, however, is that the tricks are aimed at those who know the material. So sometimes, an incompetent educated guess may have a better chance of being right than the choice of someone who knows the material. Is that right?

I suggest that all professors should develop study guides. These guides should contain all of the material that a professor feels is relevant to the course. Then we should be tested on that material. It's that simple. We should be given the material that's necessary to learn, and if we learn all of it, we should get an A. This isn't high school any longer! I don't need study



discipline. I don't need "b u s y

work." I need an education!

How many times have teachers given students irrelevant homework, projects, or reading material? We are paying teachers to provide information to us so that we can learn. A teacher's only obligation, besides providing the relevant information, is to determine whether or not we learn it. Why do they have to be tricky on tests, or be vague in describing what will be on those tests?

My vision of a good teacher is not only one who can explain things well and keep the class' attention, but one who will give straightforward exams and exam information. If I know and understand the material, I deserve an A. It doesn't always work that way.

It's nice to walk into a test that I didn't study for and do well. It's aggravating to do only fair on an exam for which I knew the material. I guess this system evens itself out in that regard. Something is lost in this system, though—an education.

Letters, cont. from page 9.

to move your car, so you don't receive a \$10 parking ticket.

There is a major problem with this parking situation and it doesn't seem like anyone is doing anything about it. There is a definite need for separate parking for commuters and residents

I hope there will be a change in the parking situation, before the problem gets any worse.

Mark Nutley, student

Reggie Lewis: Afterword

by James R. Melanson
Contributing writer

Reggie Lewis. No, this isn't another article about the alleged use of drugs that took the young man's life and basketball career. I'm concerned with the manner in which journalists and editors from most market publications continually printed articles one year after the death of Reggie Lewis.

First of all, do any of those journalists know what it is like to have someone close to them die unexpectedly, and then have to relive it one year later? Well, that's what the Lewis family had to cope with. The emotional trauma and stress that these editors and journalists made the Lewis family relive can only make us assume that they are gutless and do not have an ounce of compassion in their pens.

I criticize the writers and editors because on a small scale I do know what it is like to relive the death of a loved one. My sister passed away unexpectedly after pregnancy and my family had to relive the memory of her lying in her casket, while lawyers argued over whether or not someone had made a mistake. It is miserable and much worse the second time around.

I say the next time one of those editors' or journalists' loved one dies, we wait a year, and then scrutinize and make a circus of their life, and see how they like it! Well, I probably wouldn't do that, because my pen has a little more heart in it than theirs'.

Pretty Vacant, continued from page 9.

people showed up.

To tell you the truth, I don't care any more. This is it for me. I'm leaving after this semester, so it doesn't matter to me if events like this continue to be offered. But for those of you who will be here, think about this: if people show interest in things like this, those who do

the sponsoring will continue to do so. And if this happens you'll have things to do and you won't have to complain any more about there being nothing to do. I only hope it's not too late.

I'd like to thank the Access Office for sponsoring this worthwhile event. It's too bad most FSC students are not worth the effort.

"Confront your enemies, avoid them when you can."

--Sting, from *An Englishman in New York*

Visions '95 honors student achievements

by Jennifer Scull
Managing editor

The artwork of many Communications/Media students at Fitchburg State College are displayed on the walls of the Campus Center Art Gallery making up the Visions '95 exhibit. Visions is a student honor show designed to recognize the achievements of students in the areas of graphic design, photography, computer graphic design, film, video and technical communications.

The gallery opening on April 24 featured works of art by various students and ended with a film/video presentation and awards ceremony in Ellis White Lecture Hall. Recognition was given to those students who previously received awards from the Communications/Media department at convocation.

William J. Arbuckle received the Communications/Media Student of the Year Award and Rachel A. Barber was the recipient of the Jacqueline LaCoy Memorial Scholarship.

Paul Coyne, husband to the late Elaine T. Coyne, presented the first annual Elaine T. Coyne

Memorial - Women in Film Award. Paul described his wife as being determined, caring and ambitious. The memorial scholarship will be awarded annually to a woman in film, video or photography preparing to commence an off-campus internship in her senior year.

Paul presented the award, in honor of his wife, to Rachel A. Barber. Barber is a senior, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.72, planning to do an internship at IRS Media in Hollywood, California. Barber received \$812.89 (those numbers reflecting the day they married 8/12/89), a Fitchburg State College sweatshirt and a FSC banner. Paul gave these gifts to Barber so that she "would always remember where she came from."

"I want this award to go to someone who knows where they came from and where they are going," said Paul, reflecting on his wife's ambition.

Visions '95 is a juried honor show that displays the work of FSC Communication/Media students. The exhibit has been held annually since 1982, recognizing student achievement in the



Visions display in the Campus Center

photo by Heather Workman

department.

Helen Oberyemeyer Simmons, professor of Communications/Media, was the faculty advisor to the Student Committee responsible for organizing the event. The committee collected the works from students, coordinated the publicity, installed the gallery exhibit and coordinated the film and video show.

Since many students were honored at the opening ceremony, it is impossible to recognize the achievements of all involved. The television and film pieces, Not Lob, Animation Pop and Take a Look, by Memo Salazar were recognized with much applause from the audience. His creativity, camera use, and editing skills were displayed in his works.

Visions '95, produced and organized completely by students, shows the faculty, students and friends at Fitchburg State College the achievements and opportunities of students in the Communications/Media field at the college.

The exhibit can be viewed in the Campus Center Art Gallery until May 5.

'The Importance of Being Earnest' a success

by Jason Koivu
A&E editor

Opening night jitters were apparent but not overwhelming during the FSC Theatre Department's production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" on April 20 at the McKay auditorium.

The play details the complex social lives and loves of a small group of upper middle/lower upper classed people. Explaining the twisted plot to this play of comic genius any further would take up more space than this paper has room for.

Eight performances of the play were given. During the beginning of the first night, the players tripped over one another's lines every once in a while. By the sixth the jitters were gone. The actresses and actors had an air of confidence about them by then. Only the occasional slip-up could be detected.

While all should be commended for a job well done, the players in the lead character roles should be congratulated for their particularly strong performances.

Guy D'Annolfo was superb as the flippant bachelor Algernon Moncrieff. Though D'Annolfo spoke his lines with great skill, it was his non-speaking, side line facial gestures that really bared this actor's brilliance at his craft.

Randy Meech played his role as John Worthing to near perfection. Meech showed great ability in being able to adjust to his character's numerous and rapid fluctuations in temperament.

Jessica Powers' portrayal of the vain Gwendolen Fairfax was absolutely on target. Powers' can display a commanding stage presence when the situation calls for it, and playing Fairfax often called for it.

The youthful spirit and smile of Jenna Colleen lit up the stage as Cecily Cardew, the melodramatic ward of John Worthing. Colleen's physical appearance, the character she played and her performance was reminiscent of actress Winona Ryder, especially her work in the movie "Mermaids."

The stubborn character of Lady Bracknell was putty in the hands of Joanna Karamanos. Her competence as an actress was displayed by her incredible diction and ability to play the role of a character of advanced years.

Congratulations should also be given to directors Sara Whitcomb and Chola Chisunka. This is Dr. Chisunka's last play. Hopefully this will not be the last performance by the FSC Theatre Department.

"Stella! . . . Stella!"

by Kevin Robertson
Strobe writer

While lounging in an all-night restaurant, the three members of the local band Stella ponder their decorative Easter gifts given to them by a friend and not their place in the local music scene.

Each of the members, Paul Fisk, Derek Kerswill, and Omar Berhouet, survey the eggs and talk with an easy humor about their music.

"The music is more of a vehicle for the lyrics," related Fisk. "I really don't care much about lyrics. The music, to me is much more important."

The band got together in October 1994 and everything, in Berhouet's words "was like whipped cream with a cherry on top."

"It really is a three-way marriage," Fisk reflects. "Two-way marriages never work anymore,

never mind three. To have three people who have to be together and play songs and make decisions, it takes communication and we know how to communicate."

They recently recorded a three-song demo which highlights their music. The tape introduces Stella to the listener but they must be seen live to be truly enjoyed.

"The tape is our three oldest and we did it in about ten hours. It is a great way for people who have never heard us before to enjoy us. I think we have matured more and our music has gotten better," noted Kerswill.

The songs flow like a lush sonic voyage. Fisk's vocals seem hypnotic and smooth and rest upon the music like a pillow on a bed of sound. Kerswill fully utilizes his cymbals for dynamic purposes, which in music today has become a forgotten art, and allows the music to come alive

around him. Berhouet is a tasteful, soothing riff player who understands that playing too many notes can be detrimental to the point of the song. They also use their effects well.

"Many people say if you use effects that they are a crutch and you can't really play," complained Berhouet. "We use them as an artist would choose color over drawing with pencils. It is the same picture but veiwed differently. It is enhancement."

Their schedule now begins to fill up. They played last week in the pub at FSC and future gigs include a festival at the Civic Center on May 12 and Ralph's in Worcester on May 24.

"It is not like we are big time rock stars but we want to have that mindset. We need to look at everytime we play as we are playing Madison Square Garden. That's the mind-set of success."

Movie and music reviews are rated on a five star basis, unless otherwise noted.

Family,
How's the couch? We'll try not to call after 10 pm! Say hello to the cousins
K+J

KB + AA
It's nice to talk with you again! Now you can buy the juice. How about a movie?
-1/2 + 1/2

Personals

To the kid
Elephant juice!
From the Bean

To Silly Putty
I miss you!
Love, Gorgeous

Anybody got some ho remover?

To my future RA
I got 10 bucks saying I'll kill my new roommate!
Jr.

Pokey
I really miss bending you
Gumby

Good debut by Caruso in Kiss of Death

by Shawn Sullivan
Strobe writer

Kiss of Death
**1/2 (out of four)

Rated R: profanity, violence, brief nudity
starring David Caruso, Samuel L. Jackson and Nicholas Cage directed by Barbet Schroeder

The good news is that David Caruso is no Shelley Long.

Last October Detective John Kelly handed in his badge over at ABC's "NYPD Blue" and since then his alter ego, the thin, pale, carrot-topped Caruso, has vowed to make it on the big screen. Suffice it to say that this could be the most successful move a TV personality has made since David Letterman packed it up and headed over to CBS. Although it would not be accurate to say that Caruso has "arrived" on the silver screen, it would be fair to say that he fares well and shows a lot of promise in "Kiss of Death." Not many actors, especially of Caruso's rather unimpressive build, can appear tough without budging an inch or raising his voice a notch. The actor does botch a few lines in this movie, but I wouldn't want to be the one to tell him.

There's more good news:

"Kiss of Death" is packed with great performances. All of the characters in this film are made of one note, but if I understand the film noir genre, then that's permissible—and when the acting is as good as it is in this movie, then it doesn't really matter. Nicholas Cage returns with a higher testosterone level after giving it up in his last three commercial films, "Honeymoon in Vegas," "Guarding Tess," and "It Could Happen To You." He plays Little Junior, the muscular son of a mob boss whose body contradicts his nickname and whose psychosis is a few credits short of graduating, if you know what I mean. Cage supplies this film with an underlying sense of danger that does not seem apparent at the screen-play level, and it's pretty much his show.

Equally good and just as slimy, however, is Michael Rapaport, who plays Ronnie, Jimmy's pathetic, back-stabbing cousin. The creepiness is in his uncanny, and unfortunate, resemblance to Timothy McVeigh, the man accused of the Oklahoma City bombing last month. Samuel L. Jackson lends a little pulp to the fiction with his role of the cop who is assigned to Kilmartin's after he becomes a police informant. Helen Hunt

shows that she's mad about more than love, for her portrayal of Kilmartin's married wife is a dramatic demonstration of an inner struggle plagued with uncertainty, fear, and alcoholism.

Here's the bad news: The screenplay is a little weak. The previews are flashy and kinetic enough to send you ducking for cover, but the movie itself is actually a lighter version Brian DePalma's brilliant crime story, "Carlito's Way," which worked on many more complex levels and its heartbreaking ending was as it should have been. "Kiss of Death" is more formulaic, relying more on twists and characters to propel the story from one plot point to the next. There are a few interesting surprises, and one big twist does manage to change the course of the film, but it's ultimately all predictable.

A lot of the dialogue is written with typical male posturing; so many lines manage to ring false. As you might infer from my praise of the performances I mentioned, the actors tend to exist above the material a lot of the time. Add it all up and you will find that despite great performances and a fine debut from Caruso, this "Kiss of Death" is more of a harmless peck on the cheek.

Juicy offers a delicious treat for TT the Bears crowd

by Dave Duval
Strobe writer

"We've been up since seven this morning, when we left New York, so if we seem a little tired, we're sorry," said one of the four members of the female quartet Juicy in the middle of their set at TT the Bears, April 15. But if anyone needed a wake-up call it was the audience at the beginning of the show.

Juicy was one of five acts to appear at this all ages show. The band is fronted by guitarist/vocalist Kendall. She resembled a blond Belinda Carlisle whose guitar playing exhibited great timing, especially on "Sad" and "Stove Top."

After the first few numbers, Kendall noticed the crowd was a bit too subdued, and jokingly

threatened, "If you guys don't dance, we're quitting the band!" The band then tore into "Plywood," which featured a very rhythmic groove, which the audience danced along to.

One of the set's heaviest numbers featured great guitar stylings from Kendall and fellow Juicer, Lisa. Their playing on "Mainland China" was powerful enough so that one guitarist didn't overshadow the other. It's worthy of note that the members have changed their last names to Juicy, which makes the band seem more like a family.

"Go Fast" was a number playfully dedicated to the lead singer of Beez Wax, who performed before they did.

Juicy showed how fun playing together can be on the pop-oriented "Rocket Boy." Perhaps

the person having the most fun was a young man in his teens who danced, jumped around, and had one hell of a time while listening to the song. If anything, this is a show he'll treasure for some time.

The Juicers continued to show their wonderful chemistry on "F—k You, I'm Cool." Most notable was the pulsating vibrations emanating from drummer Meggean, the only band member who didn't attend Boston University. Meggean was an art student who hails from Providence, RI.

"Psycho Ex-Boyfriend" wrapped up the set. Kendall said it was, "about O.J. Simpson, what you guys should never be like." The number displayed the fine talents of Jen, their bassist.

Monster Magnet offers attractive Infinity

by Rob Haneisen
Strobe writer

Monster Magnet: Dopes to Infinity

Sounding something like White Zombie and Soundgarden unleashed in a high-tech music gadgetry store, Monster Magnet

prove they can both rock and produce obviously drug-induced, spacey, trippy songs on their fourth album, Dopes to Infinity.

Their mix of sounds, being both very heavy and psychedelic at the same time, screams Black Sabbath rip-off, but they actually do find their own niche to tune in and drop out. Additional in-

struments like mellotrons, theremins, sitars and organs make this possible.

The title track and "Negasonic Teenage Warhead" are easily the album's best offerings, with the latter offering some very catchy rhythms, possibly found on a stage with a

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Coffeehouse gets lynched



by Gina Procopio
Strobe writer

photo by Heather Workman

Sarah Lynch, from Marblehead was in the spotlight and gave a great quality performance at the last coffeehouse on April 23. Not detracting from her performance, she stopped from nervous laughter a few times. The music came strong and clear with different moods and tone.

Lynch appeared glad to be playing for the small crowd. "Swore" and "Blue Cafe," her original songs sound sincere and hold deep personal meaning for her. Some other songs that she played were from artists such as Neil Young. Lynch, currently performing in the Boston area, dreams of quitting her day job to play her music full-time. Don't miss her in the future!

Comedy night lacking

by Kathy Lavine
Copy editor

be amused.

When it was time for the next comedian, Frank, the audience wasn't really excited. He, however, turned out to be a surprise. He made people smile right away and then showed them that he could make them laugh, too. He used raw, almost sick humor, and eventually the subject of his jokes turned to marijuana. He made fun of everyone, from the President to Yogi Bear. He even had something to say about the Zip-loc Finger Man. His best jokes involved different ways to annoy people using a telephone. What made his act more interesting was his use of different voices, which he was very good at. He imitated Mr. Rogers, the President, Yogi Bear and Johnny Most.

Frank came through with actual comedy in the end, the show had lot of room for improvement.

"Wanna buy a monkey?"

by Delilah Larimor
Strobe writer

Outbreak

One animal carrying the greatest medical crisis in the world arrives in the U.S., causing chaos and destruction in the movie Outbreak. This action-packed movie stars Dustin Hoffman, Rene Rousseau and Morgan Freeman.

Beginning with an ongoing war, this film quickly shifts to an unknown disease hitting the country of Zaire. Playing U.S. Army Generals, Freeman and Donald Sutherland pay a quick visit to Motaba River Valley, the first village to get hit with this

deadly plague. After realizing the village is almost dead, with a 100% mortality rate, they evacuate, cover up and try to wipe out this disease. An atomic bomb is set off, wiping out all of Motaba River Valley, and the people who resided there.

This unknown disease, carried by the African monkey, is being researched by Sam Daniels (Hoffman), a veteran Army medical researcher and his ex-wife Robby (Rousseau). Unbeknownst to them, Patrick Dempsey, manages to get the monkey and brings him to Cedar Creek, California. The monkey winds up in Rudy's Pet Shop where it begins spreading the

continued on page 15

A valentine for all occasions

by Dave Duval
Strobe writer

Valentine Smith: Back on Earth

A pulsating drum accelerates, racing, reaching a climax, and then a momentary pause. Next, a rhythmic acoustic guitar riff drives through on "Dress You Up," the first track from Back on Earth. This is the fresh debut from New York's Valentine Smith, and there are many other musical surprises that can be found.

The band is led by singer Bill McGarvey, whose voice bears an ironic resemblance to Lindsey Buckingham's. Proof of this can be heard on "Katie's a No-Show," a song about a love-struck girl who "signs all her letters with X's and O's."

There is some fabulous chemistry flowing from every member of this band. Evidence of this can be heard in the fun, pop ditty "Private Downtown," which also harkens back to some of McGarvey's British influences like the Hollies and The Beatles.

Oftentimes bands will use classical instruments to add artificial flavor to some cliché power ballad. This is not the case for "Disappointing Mary," which recruits the talents of Jane Scarpantoni on cello and Helen Hooke on violin. Their contributions give this ballad an extremely haunting presence.

There are 80's influences that can be found on this CD, such as those on the title track. McGarvey is able to capture the passion and intensity of a Natalie Merchant (formerly of 10,000

Maniacs) tossed in with the static-like 60's British pop stylings of guitarist Stephen Dima.

Although McGarvey might not admit to it, there is the eerie sound of the Smashing Pumpkins on the final track, "Nelson G." This is the most moving song on the CD, which includes the brilliant songwriting talents of McGarvey and Dima.

Back on Earth is a dynamic release which combines an energetic acoustic style with skillful guitar riffs. Valentine Smith are truly diverse players who play wonderfully and sound like they're having a blast while doing it.

To order the CD, call 1-800-60-KATIE, or write Valentine Smith, P.O. Box 1177, New York, NY 10156.

Tricky does it all on Maxinquaye

by Jason Koivu
A&E editor

Tricky: Maxinquaye

The seemingly impossible has been done! Tricky has made dance music with a brain.

Maxinquaye, the debut album, as best said by Britain's Esquire magazine, "mixes ambient hiphop, swampy blues and mutant pop melodies to splendid effect." Tricky goes further than laying down the usual thick backbeat often associated with dance-oriented music. He (Tricky is a man's name) injects wild sound effects to go along with some introspective and outrageous lyrics.

It starts off with the smooth R&B track "Overcome," a song that introduces this CD's basic

sound. Next comes "Ponderosa" with its tribal beat and sensual vocals by singer Martina, alerting the listener to Tricky's ability to introduce subtle diversity upon the core of this musical genre.

"Ponderosa" slides into "Black Steel in the Hour of Chaos," a Public Enemy cover. Equally as rhythmic as its predecessor, this song leans towards upbeat poppier rock than most of the others.

The fourth song, "Hell is Around the Corner" goes back to smooth R&B. But on this one, Tricky and Martina play off one another in a manner reminiscent of the Sugar Cubes, with complimentary results, which is the case throughout this release. "Hell" is followed by the beautiful bluesy ballad "Pumpkin." This song is indescribably ten-

der.

While side one is phenomenal, side two is only excellent. It starts off with "Abbaon Fat Track," which contains your not-so-basic parental advisory explicit lyrics such as "I f—k you in the ass, just for a laugh." Tame enough you might say, but when sung by a female these words take on new meaning.

The quick-paced "Brand New You're Retro" helps to keep the second side moving, which finishes strong with a couple of decent closers in "Strugglin'" and "Feed Me."

While David Bowie rightfully defied anyone to name "one dance song that can make me breakdown and cry," Tricky gets damn close. "Maxinquaye" will at least light a fire under the ass of even the staunchest of anti-dancers.

Burning Sofa barely gets cookin'

by Jason Koivu
A&E editor

The Burning Sofa No. 10: Great West Life
**1/2

Lo-fi decadence abounds on The Burning Sofa No.10's latest creation, "Great West Life."

Not only is the sound, recording-wise, low budget (and that's not necessarily a bad thing), but the music itself seems to de-

crepitate as it goes along. This can be attributed to the songwriter's leanings toward dark, moody arrangements, which causes some of these songs to suffer from the self-indulgent tendencies common to this sort of writer. On a few of the songs it gets so bad that by the end they have fallen apart into sparse fragments, barely reminiscent of their humble beginnings.

Most of the songs are noth-

ing more than an acoustic guitar and singer with the occasional electric guitar background screechings. Some of the more rocking tunes get it together for a brief two or three minutes for a melodic and melancholy spouting of slacker wisdom, which is what lyrically fills most of this release. Luckily for this band, lyrics are their strong point. Almost every song on "Great West Life" has something interesting to say.

Die Cheerleader seethes on Son of Filth

by Kevin Robertson
Staff writer

Die Cheerleader: Son of Filth
***1/2

Die Cheerleader's album "Son of Filth," suits the mood of a woman badly scorned, and stands as an impressive offering.

The debut release, dark and almost evil in the way of an old Black Sabbath record, highlights

the vocal talents of Sam Ireland, who is awfully ticked off at some guy.

Songs such as "Massive Tangled Muscle," and "Saturation" are angry and bludgeoning shots at an unknown foe who not only left her but seemingly without warning.

But how can one not expect anger and lashing out from an album produced by Henry Rollins, the king of angst him-

self? While listening to the album one can almost picture him posing down in the background.

All kidding aside, this is a great album that is made better by one entrancing singer who sets the mood of every song through the way she allows her voice to trail off.

Son of Filth permits one seething cauldron to expel some of the hate inside. Hope there's enough left for the next album.

To whom it may concern



Nat King Cole.

Photo courtesy of Capitol Records.

by Jason Koivu
A&E editor

Nat King Cole --
To Whom It May Concern
****1/2

Wild Is Love

If Nat King Cole was alive today, he'd be enjoying the recent success that his cohorts, Tony Bennett, Tom Jones, and Frank Sinatra have found in the 90s. Cole's crooning expertise is made apparent in the Capitol Record's re-release of "To Whom It May Concern."

Every song on this CD is a gem of sentimentality. The lyrics are sweet and heavy on the love theme. And what more can be said about Cole's singing? The man's voice is butta, and he spreads it thick all over this baby, especially on the title track. "You're Bringing Out the Dreamer in Me" is another highlight, but for the ultimate in the lounge lizard experience, check out "Lovesville."

"Wild Is Love," another Capitol re-release, again pushes the love theme envelope. This CD attempts to do more than the ordinary format. In between each song Cole philosophizes on the complexities of love. Written by Dotty Wayne and Ray Rasch, the story format idea is an interesting concept, but unfortunately overall the transition from song to spoken-word is herky-jerky. Of course, Cole's voice and vocals are what makes this one worth re-releasing.

Basketball Diaries slammin'

by Kevin Robertson
Staff writer

The Basketball Diaries:
soundtrack

The majority of the music that flows from "The Basketball Diaries" soundtrack should not be new to any old fans of Jim Carroll, the subject of the film based upon his book of the same name.

The book, which chronicles his overboard heroin use and life while growing up in Brooklyn, appears several times on the album in the form of quotes from the film.

The majority of music on the album features Carroll, but the best stuff on the soundtrack is by other people. Soundgarden, PJ Harvey, Rockers HiFi, The Cult,

and even Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers turn in stellar offerings.

PJ Harvey gives an emotional performance on "Down by the Water," a song about a mother and her drowned child. The singing chills to the bone.

The Cult kicks in a song called "Star" and it sounds nothing like The Cult normally does. To those who may be scratching their heads that happens to be a compliment.

The highest point of the entire album comes at the end in the form of "Blind Dogs" by Soundgarden. Even after putting out what is arguably the best album of the decade, they still are able to put great songs out.

I highly recommend both the book and the movie of "The Basketball Diaries."

Baseball, continued from page 20

pitcher. The final score of the Clark game was 25-3.

A much closer game, but with an equal result, was Franklin Pierce College. For a change of pace, FSC was on the winning side of this one-run decision, 6-5. The game marked the last home game at the Falcon nest at Elliot field. With this victory, the Falcon record was improved to 10-19, but they face an uphill battle for the remainder of the year. Their road stand began with the longest pilgrimage of the season to the woods of North Adams State College. Vanuni, a native of North Adams, got the nod from pitching mentor Jeff Toothaker and threw fine baseball through seven innings. He accepted the loss valiantly, scarring his record yet again to 3-8. The final scoreboard read an-

other FSC loss, 8-4.

The subsequent game can be considered the most frustrating of all the games up to this point. Again, a one-run loss. There was little clutch hitting on the part of the FSC offense, coupled with an untimely error early on in the game. Freshman John "Ice" Eisan started on the mound for the green team and was able to keep Fitchburg in the game for his entire performance. Sean Darcy paced the Falcon line-up with multiple hits, unfortunately with runners out of scoring position. Lefty senior Kenny Kilduff, whose time is running out as a Falcon member, came on to pitch the final two innings. He quieted the busy bats of North Adams in veteran fashion. The Falcons

were sent on their way down the winding roads of the Mohawk trail having to swallow yet another one-run loss, 1-0. The one-run losses now total eleven for the year. As they stand, with four games remaining, the best possible outcome will be a record of 14 wins and 21 losses, if they defeat the remainder of their opponents.

The green and gold will face Curry College, Gordon College, and a doubleheader versus Framingham State for their final MASCAC games. Although the Falcons could not match their outstanding second place finishing of 1994, look for this young team to make long strides in the near future as several players will be returning for next year's season.

Lady Falcons, continued from page 20

Poitras went seven innings, allowing one earned run and striking out three.

Wednesday, April 27, FSC won its third game in a row against visiting Daniel Webster 10-1.

The whole team hit well that game; as a team they had sixteen hits. Lavita, Kathy Herriot and Creamer each had three hits for the Falcons. Creamer also had three RBI's.

Poitras pitched the complete game that was ended early due to the mercy rule. She allowed two runs on two hits and four walks, while striking out ten.

Thursday, Fitchburg State ripped off 32 runs in a doubleheader against Mass. Maritime. The first game was 10-7 and the second game was 22-10.

Poitras picked up the win in the first game, striking out five, but allowing seven earned runs in the victory. Hitting well for FSC were Lavita who went 3 for 5 with two runs, and Nolan, Roberts and Graves. Nolan went 2 for 3 with three runs, Kellie

Roberts went 2 for three with two runs and two RBI's, and Graves also went 2 for three with two RBI's.

In the second game, Christine Roddy picked up her first win of the season, pitching six innings and allowing five earned runs.

Fitchburg cracked eighteen hits on the way to driving home 22 runs. Roberts had another strong game, going 3 for 3 with two runs, four RBI's, a double and a homerun. Poitras and Mawn each scored four runs, Poitras went 3 for four and Mawn was 2 for 4.

This past Saturday, the Falcons got swept in a key doubleheader by the Mohawks of North Adams. In the first game, FSC couldn't manage a hit as they were blanked 8-0 in the loss. In the second game, Fitchburg State got two hits, but still lost 5-2.

The softball team finishes off their season this week with a doubleheader this Saturday at Framingham State.

Monter Magnet, continued from page 13

woman dressed in patent leather swinging a long bull whip over her head and performing a striptease. Of course, that's not what the song is about, but that is what it sounds like it should be about.

At times, the constant mystical murmurings and 'far-out' attitude found on songs such as the 8-minute epic "Third Alternative" can be a little much. The band succeeds when it pounds out-fuzzed out driving beats to pace a frenetic horizontal mambo marathon like on the track "I Control, I Fly."

If Monster Magnet can break out of the drug culture they may make it big-time. Personally, I wouldn't want that to happen because they would probably lose the sound that they define as "space rock." This album is a trip and worth the green in your jeans.

Monkey, continued from page 13

disease.

The Army discovers the outbreak and tries to cover it up. Another atomic bomb would do that job easily enough.

The remaining hour of the movie was packed with excitement and danger as the people of Cedar Creek try to escape, and as Rousseau and Hoffman fight to find a cure.

Outbreak will leave you gripping your seat with excitement, fear, anger and sorrow.

****Special Thanks to Sony Theaters in Leominster****

Kids to college continued from page 4

departments on campus participated in the days activities, including the FSC Press, Business department, Rescue Squad, Communications/Media, DAKA, Education office, Nursing department, Public Safety, SGA and WXPL. Talks, experiments, cooking, and much more were included in the day.

"The kids were truly sincere," said Vickers. "They were here to be serious and proved this to be a terrific 'field trip'."

SGA President, continued from page 4

office," said Puliafico. "She has made SGA a great organization."

As SGA President, Fitzgerald has many duties. A few of his responsibilities include chairing meetings of the Council and Executive board, representing SGA at all public occasions, being a voting member of the Financial Committee, appointing people to vacant positions with approval of council and voting in the case of a tie.

Fitzgerald said that he is aware of his duties and ready for the responsibilities. As President, he has many issues he would like to address. He would like to restore the integrity of the Student Government Association. "We have lost sight of our purpose as an organization that claims to be the voice of the students," said Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald would also like to

end the apathy and make students realize they can come to SGA with their problems and concerns. He would like to better the communication with the students.

"I have a whole new administration, one that is committed solely to helping students," said Fitzgerald. "The bickering will end, there will be no selfishness and SGA will become exactly what we were founded on 73 years ago -- an organization that is simply a voice of the students, for the students."

"If SGA has the same drive as they did this year, they will be unstoppable," said Puliafico. "The students will make the changes they need to make."

"I am confident that my new administration will work its hardest to do no less than is expected of us," said Fitzgerald.

Track profile, continued from page 19

Barrett all took part in the event, but didn't place.

In the long jump, Fitchburg State placed three jumpers: Walsh, White and Rouine. Walsh was second with a jump of 14-4 1/2. White was fourth at 11-11 1/2 and Rouine was sixth at 9-4 3/4.

In other running events, Chrisann Barrett had her first win in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing with a time of 17.03.

Maryann Barrett was fourth at 19.73. In the 200 meters Irving finished first at 28.72, Chrisann Barrett was second at 30.25 and Rouine was fourth at 30.75.

In other field events, Kittler was first in the high jump with a jump of 4-8. Walsh easily won the long jump at 32-4 1/2, almost four feet more than her closest competitor. Pouliot took part in the shot put and had a throw of 20.7.



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Three of a kind; sisters on the run

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

The Barrett sisters, twins Stacie and Maryann and older sister Chrisann have invaded the sports scene at Fitchburg State, with all three being members of the track and soccer teams.

The Lunenburg natives each run a leg of the 4x100 relays along with Wendy Gagliani. Chrisann also runs the 100 hurdles and the 200-meter dash. Stacie takes part in the discus, javelin and the 100-meter dash. Maryann does the triple jump, the 100 and 200-meter dashes, the discus and is being trained for the 100 hurdles. "Erik (Lammi) told me that I'm a hurdler."

"In high school we all had our separate things, Stacie did the jav, Maryann did the triple and I always was the hurdler, and all of a sudden, bang, Erik told Maryann 'you're definitely a hurdler'," said Chrisann, "and I'm sitting there saying 'whoa oh' wait a minute here, I'm the hurdler in the family."

This is Chrisann's second year of college. She's a Human Services major, who transferred here after a year at Mount Wachusett Community College. For the twins, this is their first year in college and both are undecided about a major, but Fitchburg State wasn't their first choice. They both intended to attend Framingham State, and were going to transfer after this semester, but they

decided to stay here because they are starting to like it, and Framingham doesn't have a track team.

"We just liked sprinting when we were little, we were just so energetic, it was like, 'Run, Run, Run,'" said Chrisann about why they all became interested in track.

They all credit their mother for encouraging them in sports. "If we do bad in a race or something, 'just wait to next time' she says," said Maryann, "she kept telling us hard work was going to get us somewhere."

"She comes to all of our soccer games and track meets, she's more dedicated than we are, almost," said Stacie, "We've always been dedicated."

Chrisann has qualified for the ECAC championships in the hurdles, and they all will be participating in the 4x100 relays. In high school Maryann broke the school record in the triple jump her first season. Stacie's best throw in high school was about four feet behind the current FSC record, but the coaches have changed her throwing style, so her throws are down this season.

As well as track and soccer, the sisters were supposed to play on the women's basketball team, but sat out this season because they wanted to take time out for their studies, and they wanted to take a break between soccer and track seasons.

"We were in pain, school wise, my grades weren't



The Barrett sisters: Maryann, Chrisann, and Stacie.

photo by Norman Miller

good," said Maryann, "It was like the day after soccer ended, and they were like 'Practice', and I was like give me a week."

In soccer, Maryann had a fantastic rookie season, being one of the league leaders in goals, and Chrisann and Stacie were key contributors of the bench. Maryann has been playing soccer since she was eight or nine years old, Stacie for about six years, while Chrisann has only been playing about three years.

"One newspaper quoted 'The bond will never be there,'" said Chrisann, "we'll never separate when we get older. We never will."

"We'll probably end up living together," said Stacie.

"I love my sisters, I really do."

Meet the Athletic Director



Mrs. "K."

photo by Norman Miller

by Heather Boxold
Contributing writer

Important papers need her signature. Meetings are scheduled and appointments are made. This busy job of an athletic director belongs to Elizabeth Kruczek, or better known as, "Mrs. K."

For seventeen years now, Mrs. K. has held the position of Director of Athletics. She finds her job rewarding and challenging. With budget meetings and organizing playing fields, she still finds the time to be a positive influence on a lot of the students here at Fitchburg State College.

"The driving force behind a lot of things here at Fitchburg State is the concept that we're small and that it's a family. . .you're just not a number to me."

Along with being very academically minded, she also believes "athletics is an integral part of your education. It's teamwork that makes the world go round. How can you teach that in a classroom? You've got to learn to lose gracefully and also to be satisfied with yourself. When you go out into any

kind of employment, there is a team there that isn't quite as visible." Athletics, like any other club or organization on campus, can further a student's education.

These past two semesters Mrs. K. has won numerous awards. This past fall she was included in the Fitchburg State athletic Hall of Fame at the inaugural induction ceremony. Last year she was named the ECAC Woman of the Year for athletics. Last spring she earned the FSC Centennial Administration Award, and she also serves as Secretary of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

One of the many highlights Mrs. K. enjoys about her job is the relationship she has with the students and parents. "I like people," she says, "and this is the ideal position." Mrs. K. understands how hard it is for college students to juggle a job, school and practice everyday for a sport. She can relate because she sent four of her own children through college. "I know how hard my husband and I struggled to put them through college. . .that's why I wear shoulder pads, because the world was so heavy on my shoulders."

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Player Profile: Paul Doherty and Mike Decicco

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

Paul Doherty and Mike Decicco have been teammates for three years and captains, and roommates, for one year. This season they are currently leading the baseball team in their quest for a MASCAC championship.

Doherty having his best season offensively; he's batting .348 with fifteen runs, fourteen RBI's, three doubles and two homeruns, as he plays his first season as team captain. "I've got more responsibilities, so I've had to bring up my play to a different level," said Doherty about his new responsibilities.

Although he is a senior, Doherty still as a year of eligibility left because he sat out his sophomore season, and he plans to continue playing for the team next season, unless his internship is too far away. "I want to play until I can't play anymore."

He thought this season was disappointing because with most of the team returning, the

team expected better than a 10-19 record. "We're real disappointed, we've lost eleven games this year by one run," said Doherty, "this year seem to be a rebuilding year, which kind of stinks."

"Losing's contagious, winnin'g's contagious, and we haven't been able to get the winning feeling," he says, but he thinks the team can win the rest of the games to end the season.

Doherty grew up in Bedford, Mass. where he attended Bedford High. He has been playing baseball since he was in elementary school, in various farm leagues, as well as in high school.

Next spring he will graduate with a degree in graphic design. After that he wants to tour the country in a winnebago with his friends.

Decicco, a Revere native, has been playing baseball for fifteen years, and switched from catcher to second baseman in his sophomore year at Wakefield High. Although offensively his stats are down, he is currently on a hot streak and



Paul Doherty and Mike Decicco

photo by Norman Miller

he has raised his average to .256 with nineteen runs and four RBI's. Overall he thinks his play has improved. "I think my play has improved almost a 100 percent, I had two great second basemen ahead of me, and I just learned from them, and thanks to them they elevated my play."

"The intensity isn't

there as it was last year. Last year we believed no one could beat us, no matter who it was. That was the kind of intensity, the kind of drive they had," said Decicco about the team. "This team has been kind of lacking it, we're starting to pick it up as games go on."

Decicco will also be graduating next spring with a degree in construction technology, and he hopes to own a business someday.

What does he expect for the rest of the season? "We have six games left, and I expect six victories, nothing less."

Player Profile: Kris Theriault and Wendy Gagliani

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

For the last few seasons Kris Theriault and Wendy Gagliani have helped raise Fitchburg State athletics to a different level, and they both have been awarded for their excellence in sports by being named the male and female Athletes of the Year.

Theriault, a senior, is a javelin thrower, and holds the school record for the longest throw. Last season he had a throw that was in the top fifteen in the nation on any level and has also won the National Championship with a throw of 236'6. This season he has only thrown twice, easily winning both with throws of 215'0 and 230'7.

Theriault did not throw a lot this season due to an injury and the bad weather. "I spend about 45 weeks training from the end of one season to the next season," said Theriault. "It would have been bad mentally if I had a bad throw."

This is the second time that Theriault has won the Male Athlete of the Year award, also winning it as a sophomore. "I was honored, I was really honored," said Theriault.

As well as being named the Male Athlete of the Year, Theriault has recently been named an All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association(NSCA).



Kris Theriault

photo by Norman Miller

"That's pretty much my favorite award, because it all depends on what you do," said Theriault. He won the award last year when his coach, Jim Sheehan, submitted his name to the awards committee. He won based on his strength performances in the power clean, the squat, the 40 yard dash, the bench press and his improved throwing.

Theriault, from Chicopee, is graduating this spring with a degree in history. After graduation he plans to move to Florida to train for a year for the olympic trials. The top 26 throwers make the trials, [which he should qualify for] although he's not sure what will happen after that. Three people make the olympic team, and a

fourth is an alternate.

"God willing, I'll do fine and I'll stay healthy," said Theriault. "I just like to throw, I just want to throw far."

Wendy Gagliani is a junior nursing major and her main event is the heptathlon. The heptathlon is a two day track event; the first day she does the 100 meter hurdles, the shot put, the high jump and the 200 meter dash. The second day she does the long jump, the javelin and the 800 meters. She also runs the 400 meter hurdles.

Last week at the Holy Classic Relays, Gagliani qualified for the nationals in the heptathlon, with a school record of 4335 points.

"I would like to be an



Wendy Gagliani

photo by Norman Miller

All-American in the nationals," said Gagliani. "You have to be in the top eighth, and I placed tenth last year."

Saturday, Gagliani will be taking part in seven events at the MASCAC championships because it is a scoring meet. In two weeks she will be at the Division III's in the 100 meter hurdles and the 400 meter hurdles. The week after that are the ECAC's at Bowdoin where she will be doing the same event, as well as the 4x100 relay with the Barrett sisters, Chrisann, Stacie and Maryann.

"I felt honored," said Gagliani about her winning the Female Athlete of the Year award. "I felt all the hard work

I've been doing has paid off."

Gagliani is also the captain of the field hockey team and she was named the MVP for the team this season. She was named MASCAC player of the week twice last season.

Both Theriault and Gagliani say they owe a lot of their success to the women's assistant coach, Erik Lammi. "Erik Lammi is a great, unbelievable coach," said Theriault.

"He is basically my coach. He's an awesome athlete, he's very motivating. He spends a lot of time working with me, on working total technique," said Gagliani, "I don't think I would have been anywhere if I didn't have him."

Women Take MASCAC Championship, Men Fifth

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

The women's and men's track teams made the trip to Bridgewater State this past Saturday to take part in the MASCAC Championships.

The women's team broke five records on their way to winning their fifth straight MASCAC title. They won by 46 points, with 120, followed by Bridgewater State at 74.

Wendy Gagliani set three MASCAC records, the 100-meter dash at 12.7, the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.3, and the 400 meter hurdles at 65.4.

Tina Rouine set the record in the 5,000 meters, with a time of 19:26.3, and Coreen White ran an 11:12.3 for the MASCAC record in the 3,000 meters.

Gagliani also placed first in the long jump at 14-4 1/2, the triple jump at 34-10 and the high jump at 5'0 even.

The other first-place finish was the 4x100 relay, with Gagliani, Stacie Barrett, Maryann Barrett and Chrisann Barrett running a 51.82.

Other events that FSC runners placed in were the 1500 meters with White taking second at 5:06, and Kim Walsh finishing third at 5:15, which qualified her for the New England Division III's.

In the 3,000 meters, Rouine placed second, followed by Walsh at third and Suzanne Whitnell at fifth and in the 800 meters; Walsh took second, Rouine took third and Katie Brace took fourth.

In the 100 meter hurdles, 400

hurdles and 100-meter dash, Chrisann Barrett took fifth, while in the 400 meters, Brace finished third and Judy Kittler finished fifth.

In the 5,000 meters, FSC placed three runners other than Rouine: Laurie Pouliot, Whitnell, and Michelle Holloway, for second, third and fifth, respectively. FSC also placed three runners in the 1000 meters—Holloway was second, followed by Whitnell for third and Karen Drucker for fifth.

In the field events, Kittler jumped a 4'10 in the high jump, good for second. In the long jump, Karen Irving jumped 16'3 1/2 for third. Irving also took fifth in the shot put at 30'6.

In the triple jump, Walsh finished second, and Maryann Barrett was third. Stacie Barrett took 2nd in the javelin, with a throw of 110'; she also placed in the discus.

The men scored 20 points as a team to finish last in the championships.

The men's team had only one first-place finisher, Kris Theriault in the javelin, with a throw of 203'8. Theriault also placed in the shot put, placing fifth at 34'3, and the discus with a throw of 102' for fifth.

Chris Couto also placed in two events, the javelin and the pole vault. In the javelin he was third at 160', and in the pole vault he was also third at 11'.

The other three Falcons to place were Chris Plourde in the shot put, third at 34'5, Matt Ostrandaer, also in the shot put, fifth at 34'3, and James Ditammi in the 100-meter dash, with a



Maryann Barrett passes the Baton to her sister Chrisann

photo by Norman Miller

time of 11.8.

The women's track team hosted an invitational, hosting MIT and Regis in a non-team scoring meet on Sunday, April 23

FSC placed 29 people in the 16 events. Fitchburg's best event was the 100 meter dash with the top three finishers—Gagliani was first with a time of 13.39, Stacie Barrett was second at 14.00, followed by Maryann Barrett at 14.06.

In the 400 meters Fitchburg finished one and two, with Brace first at 62.42 and Kittler at 69.82.

But FSC's strength was the medium-to long-range events, with nine runners placing between the 800 meters and 5,000

meters.

In the 800, White easily took the event by almost ten seconds with a time of 2:28.34. Whitnell was fifth at 2:51.44 and Kittler was seventh with 3:15.32.

In the 1500 meters Rouine broke five minutes with a personal best time of 4:58.40. "It felt real good, I felt real strong when I was running," said Rouine about her time. Also placing in the 1500 was Whitnell at 5:37.28, good for third.

Holloway won the 3,000-meter at 11:36.16; she was followed by Walsh with a time of 11:45.75, and Drucker was fifth at 14:22.7.

In the 5000-meters Laurie

Pouliot placed second at 21:06.9, over two minutes behind the first-place finisher, and over two minutes ahead of the third-place finisher.

FSC won both relay events. In the 4x100 the team of Gagliani, Stacie Barrett, Maryann Barrett and Chrisann Barrett ran 54.21 for first place, beating the second-place team, MIT, by four seconds. In the 4x400 Fitchburg won with a time of 4:34. Irving, Pouliot, White and Brace each ran a leg.

In the javelin, Stacie Barrett had her third first-place finish of the season with a throw of 109-11. Gagliani also placed at 76-0. Walsh, Rouine and Chrisann

Continued on page 15

Player Profile: Stacie Mawn and Beth Poitras

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

So far this season, the Fitchburg State softball team has been suffering through a tough season, with a 7-14 record, but are staying competitive due to their team captain Stacie Mawn and pitcher Beth Poitras.

Mawn, a senior, is the starting third baseman for the Lady Falcons. She's hitting .393 with eleven RBI's, eleven runs, twelve stolen bases and a home run. Defensively she has made only five errors through the first twenty-one games.

"I think we'll do okay, we've had a frustrating season," said Mawn about the season so far, and for the rest of the season. She said that it was a big adjustment from last season, with only five players returning, and with a new assistant coach.

Mawn has raised her batting average over .160 points from last season. She credits this to her old assistant coach. "My assistant coach from last year started working with me, and the second half of the season I started hitting. I took his advice

and started carrying it through this season."

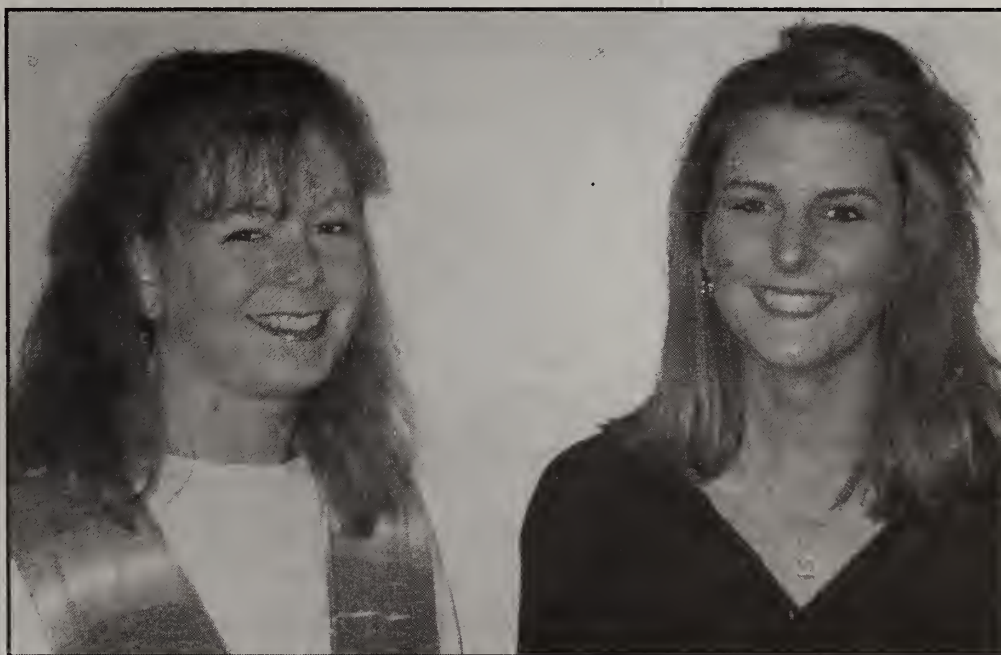
For the last two seasons, Mawn has also been the starting goalie for the women's soccer team, earning second team All-MASCAC honors both seasons.

This spring she will graduate with degrees in Early Childhood Education and Sociology. She is taking six classes as well as planning her wedding. All those responsibilities take time away from softball, but her coaches are bending a little, so she can budget her time a little.

Poitras, a junior, has started all but three games this season, and has set the single-season record for strikeouts for FSC, breaking the seven-year record of 47 strikeouts, set by Lisa Forget. Poitras has 70 strikeouts through a record 110 innings.

This season she is 7-10 with a 4.20 ERA. She is also batting .313 with ten runs, thirteen stolen bases and a team-leading 15 RBI's.

She says her improved pitching this season is due to her developing three new pitches. Instead of a straight fast ball and change-up, she can move the



Beth Poitras and Stacie Mawn

Norman Miller

ball all over the plate and has much better control.

Poitras says she likes to pitch every game, to help to keep the team up, but doesn't think it is fair to Christine Roddy, the other pitcher on the team and her roommate. "Last season, when I was down she picked me up, and this year they're not giving

her a fair shot."

She is a nursing major, and she says that interferes with softball a lot. Last season her clinicals were every Saturday, the same day as MASCAC games, so she couldn't pitch then. This semester her clinicals are on Tuesdays, and her clinical advisor lets her out early

when there are games.

"We're a very young team, I think we're getting it together, I think the rest of the season will be a lot smoother. At least if we're not winning we'll know we played a good game in our hearts," she says about the rest of the season.

Falcon baseball defeats three

Frustrating Season Coming To a Close

by Ron Taupier
Strobe writer

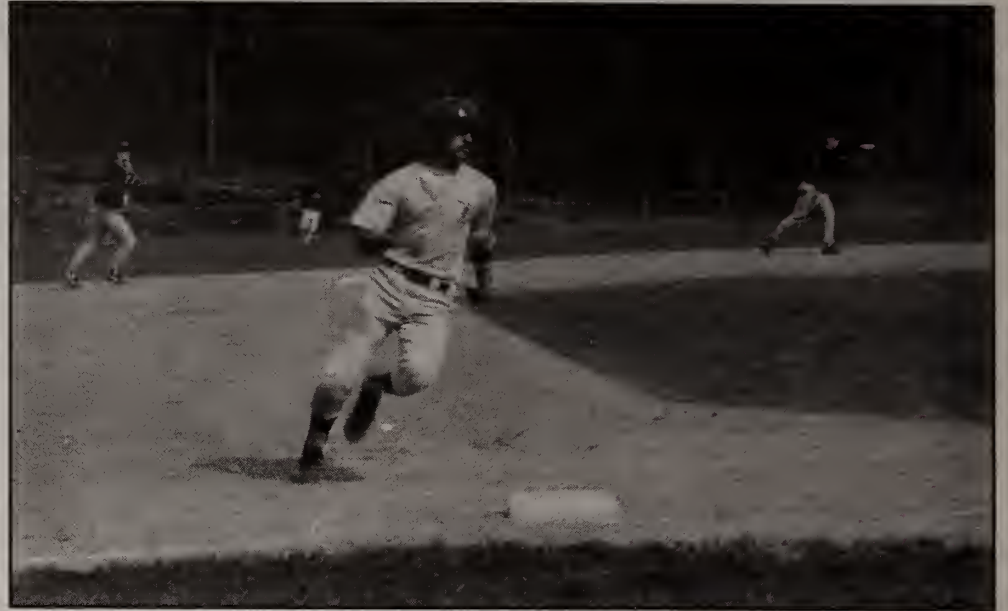
There is no joy in Fitchburg for the mighty Falcons have struck out! Last week the FSC baseball team faced its toughest opponents and were dealt losses from some important MASCAC teams. Mass. Maritime Academy, Westfield State and North Adams State were the crucial league games that the Falcons needed to claim a higher standing in their league. To add to the team's frustration is the fact that a handful of the losses were one run games.

On Monday, Mass. Maritime defeated the green and gold twice, each game by a single run. Freshman Jimmy Mulligan once again performed above and beyond what was expected, pitching near perfect baseball. As has been the case recently, the Falcons struggled at the plate producing only five runs to help Mulligan. Both games were lost by a run, 6-5 and 5-4 respectively.

Thursday's game had the Falcons pitted against Amherst College, by far the strongest opponent on their schedule. The game had a little of everything in it. Veteran and tri-captain Paul "Dog" Doherty lit up an Amherst offering well over the

360 foot marker to boost the Falcons to within a run; but this would be as close as they would get. Steve Baldassare contributed a pair of hits, but sloppy base running plagued Fitchburg as they were picked off base four times. "It is very difficult to win baseball games when your taken off the base paths four times in one game," said skipper John McGuirk of the poor base running. The final score had Amherst up by one run, 3-2.

Saturday's main event was a double header against yet another MASCAC rival, Westfield State College. Throughout fourteen innings of play, the Fitchburg Falcons were only able to dig up four hits. "You can't expect to win games when we can only get four hits, especially against a strong team like Westfield," McGuirk said. Joe Vanuni was handed the loss, creating a very deceptive pitching record of 2-7, deceptive because he has thrown very well and kept the birds in every game. He suffers from lack of run support, coupled with untimely mistakes defensively when he is on the hill. Returning first baseman Carlos Albert tried his hardest to help the cause as he contributed a timely hit and was hitting the ball hard to all fields. The Owls of Westfield sent FSC home with



Victor Rojas rounding third in FSC's 6-5 win against Franklin Pierce.

photo by Norman Miller

a pair of losses 4-0 and 6-4.

Mixed in between these frustrating losses was a romping of Emerson College 19-1. The convincing victory was just what the doctor ordered in order to boost the spirits of an ailing Falcon club. The game was painted with five, yes, five home-runs setting a school record for the most dings in one game. They came off the hot sticks of Steve Baldassare (3 for 3 with 3 RBI's), Todd Price, Victor Rojas, Jason Dyer and

Jimmy Moran. Also contributing multiple hits were Zach Lambert, Ron Taupier and Mike Decicco. Freshman ace John Eisan got the win, improving his record to 3-1. The victory improved FSC's overall record to 8-19.

The Falcon's were able to get their total wins in double digits with victories over Clark University and Franklin Pierce College. Junior ace, Vanuni, hardly broke a sweat, silencing Clark's bats for five innings of shut-out

baseball. There was a fight at the bat rack as Fitchburg pounded out hit after hit in a nine-inning game that was called after only seven on account of the mercy rule. The win improved Vanuni's pitching record to 3-7. Fitchburg native Joe McCarthy came on to pitch the final two frames. The freshman picked up right where Vanuni left off, and was able to show his versatility as both a catcher and

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Lady Falcons win Curry, Westfield and Daniel Webster

by Norman Miller
Sports editor

The Fitchburg State softball team won three more games these past two weeks, but fell short in another four. Their record now stands at 7-16.

On April 20, the Lady Falcons got blanked 6-0 by the visiting Colonels of Curry. But the main story of the game wasn't the score, it was FSC pitcher Beth Poitras, who set the season record in strikeouts, passing Lisa Forget's seven year record of 47. Poitras now has 70 strikeouts on the season.

Fitchburg State's best chance to score came in the bottom of the fifth. Captain Stacie Mawn singled with one out, and was followed by a double by Margaret Graves to make it second and third with one out, but Currey was able to get the next two batters out to end the threat. Those two hits were the only two that FSC would get throughout the game.

"Defensively we did all right," said assistant coach Lisa Wallace, "offensively we struggled, we just didn't come out aggressive."

Saturday, April 22, the team got two important MASCAC



photo by Norman Miller

wins, sweeping Westfield State for the first time since 1981, winning 5-4 and 4-3.

"It was great because it was two league victories," said coach Ken Ellis about the game.

The Owls jumped on the Falcons early, scoring three runs in the top of the first (all unearned). Westfield's Cara Rezzuti drove in two runs with a shot to right field.

Fitchburg State came back in the bottom of the inning with two runs. Maria Lavita led the inning off with a single pass the

second baseman, stole second and third and scored on a wild pitch. Mawn drove in Creamer home with a bloop single to right field to make it 3-2.

The score remained the same until the fourth inning when the Owls scored another unearned run. Marci Cheries singled to center to score Rezzuti from third.

The Falcons tied the score at 4-4 in the bottom of the fifth. Kim Nolan cracked a double to right field to score freshman Beverly Horsh and Lavita.

That left second and third, but Eileen Laskey popped it up to end the threat.

Fitchburg scored an unearned run of their own in the bottom of the fifth, when with two outs, Creamer drove in Margaret Graves to take the lead and the game, 5-4.

Poitras had a strong game for Fitchburg state, pitching seven innings, allowing five hits and three walks, while striking out four and giving up no earned runs.

Hitting well for FSC were

Lavita who went 2 for 4 with two runs and three stolen bases, and Poitras went 2 for 3 with two stolen bases.

In the bottom half of the doubleheader, the Owls took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when senior Bridjo Quinlan drove in Jill Paghera from second with a line drive single to left field.

Fitchburg State tied it up in the bottom of the second inning with Nolan scoring on a ground out to short by Poitras.

In the top of the third WSC scored another two unearned runs when Nolan made an error that allowed two runners to come around to score to make it 3-1.

The Falcons came back to take the lead, 4-3 in the fourth inning. With runners on second and third, Poitras cracked a single to canter field to drive home Nolan from third. Laskey then scored on a pass ball to tie it at three, and Poitras scored on a ground out by Graves to take the lead.

That would be the game as Poitras shut down the Westfield bats for the final three innings to earn her sixth win of the season.

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